THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE and ART DISPLAYED, IN A TOUR through the WORLD;

CONTAINING

I. A General Account of all the Countries in the World, remarkable for either Natural or Artificial Curiosities; their Situation, Boundaries, Extent and Divisions; their Rivers, Air, Soils, Chief Cities, &c.

II. A particular Account of the most curious natural Productions of each Country, in the Animal, Vegetable, and Fossil Kingdoms; of remarkable Mountains, Caverns, and Volcano's; of Medicinal and other singular Springs; of Cataracts, Whirlpools, &c.

III. An Historical Account of the most remarkable Earthquakes, Inundations, Fires, Epidemic Diseases, and other public Calamities, which have, at different times, visited the Inhabitants.

IV. Extraordinary Instances of Longevity, Fertility, &c. among the Inhabitants; together with an Account of their most celebrated Inventions, Discoveries, &c.

V. Particular Descriptions of the most remarkable Public Buildings, and other singular Productions of Art.

VI. Curious Remains of Antiquity; remarkable Laws, Customs, and Traditions of the Inhabitants; together with a Summary View of the most extraordinary Revolutions among them.

Illustrated and embellished with Copper Plates.

VOL. III.

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An Accurate Map of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND from the Best Authorities

British Statute Miles
20 50 100 180

References to the Scotch Shires

A. Cathness
B. Sutherland
C. Ross
D. Inverness
E. Murray
F. Banff
G. Aberdeen
H. Mearnis
I. Angus
K. Perth
L. Argile
M. Sterling
N. Fife
O. Renfrew
P. Clydesdale
Q. Lothian
R. Berwick
S. Peebles
T. Roxbury
V. Tiviotdale
U. Annandale
W. Dumfries
X. Aire
Y. Kirkoudbright
Z. Wigton

References to the English Counties

Western Circuit
1. Cornwall
2. Devonshire
3. Dorsetshire
4. Hampshire
5. Somersetshire
6. Wiltshire

Oxford Circuit
7. Berkshire
8. Oxfordshire
9. Glocestershire
10. Monmouthshire
11. Herefordshire
12. Worcestershire
13. Staffordshire
14. Shropshire

Home Circuit
15. Essex
16. Hartfordshire
17. Kent
18. Surrey
19. Sussex

Norfolk Circuit
20. Norfolk
21. Suffolk
22. Cambridgeshire
23. Huntingdonshire
24. Bedfordshire
25. Buckinghamshire

Midland Circuit
26. Lincolnshire
27. Nottinghamshire
28. Derbyshire
29. Rutlandshire
30. Leicestershire
31. Warwickshire
32. Northamptonshire

North Circuit
33. Yorkshire
34. Durham
35. Northumberland
36. Lancashire
37. Westmoreland
38. Cumberland

No Circuit
39. Middlesex
40. Cheshire

References to the Irish Counties

1. Dublin
2. Louth
3. Wicklow
4. Wexford
5. Longford
6. Eastmeath
7. Westmeath
8. King's
9. Queen's
10. Kilkenny
11. Kildare
12. Catherlagh
13. Down
14. Ardmagh
15. Monaghan
16. Cavan
17. Antrim
18. Londonderry
19. Tyrone
20. Fermanagh
21. Dunnagall
22. Leitrim
23. Roscommon
24. Mayo
25. Slago
26. Galway
27. Clare
28. Cork
29. Kerry
30. Limerick
31. Tipperary
32. Waterford

References to the Welch Counties

N. East Circuit
a. Denbighshire
b. Flintshire
c. Montgomeryshire
d. Anglesey
e. Carnarvonshire
f. Merionethshire
North Wales

S. West Circuit
g. Cardiganshire
h. Carmarthenshire
i. Pembrokeshire
k. Radnorshire
l. Brecknockshire
m. Glamorganshire
South Wales

Meridian of London

Shetland
Papa Stour
Mainland
Islands
Fair I.
Orkney
Mainland
Islands
Hoy I.
Westra I.
Sanda I.
Stronsa
N. Ronaldsha I.
S. Ronaldsha I.
Yell I.
Fetlar I.
Whalsey I.

IRISH SEA
ST. GEORGE'S CHANNEL
ENGLISH CHANNEL
Bristol Channel
Lewis
Harris
Barra I.
Coll I.
Tyree I.
Jura I.
Islay I.
Mull of Cantyre
Arran
Lough Swilly
Lough Foyle
Rathlin I
Dunnagall B.
Sligo B.
Galway B.
Bardsey I.
Carnarvon B.
Holy Head
Dublin Bay
Carlingford B.
Dundalk B.
Strangford B.
Belfast Lough
Waterford Har.
Dungarvan B.
Cork Har.
Bantry B.
Kenmare R.
Dingle B.
Tralee B.
Galway B.
Brachipulli B.
Cardigan B.
St. Davids
Pembroke
Worms H.
Lundy I.
Hartland Pt.
Lands End
Scilly I.s
Mount's B.
Falmouth Har.
Plymouth Sound
Eddistone
Start Pt.
Portland I.
Isle of Wight
Newport
Beachy H.d
Dungeness
Rye
Romney M.
Canterbury
Maidstone
Rochester
Chatham
Sheerness
Medway R.
Thames R.
Harwich
Ipswich
Yarmouth
Lowestoft
Norwich
Wells
Boston
Lincoln
Hull
Spurn H.d
Humber R.
Flamborough H.d
Scarborough
Whitby
Tees R.
Durham
Newcastle
Berwick
Holy I.
Coquet I.
Farn Islands
Cheviot Hills
Solway Firth
Forth Firth
Tay Firth
Aberdeen
Dee R.
Buchan Ness
Kinnaird H.d
Tarbat Ness
Caithness
Duncansby H.d
Pentland Firth
Orkney
Mainland
Islands
Hoy I.
Stronsa
Sanda I.
Fair I.
Shetland
Papa Stour
Yell I.
Fetlar I.
Whalsey I.
Mainland
Islands
Westra I.
N. Ronaldsha I.
S. Ronaldsha I.
Dunnet H.d
Cape Wrath
Lewis
Harris
Skye
Mull
Jura I.
Islay I.
Arran
Ailsa Craig
Mull of Galloway
Isle of Man
Calf of Man
Douglas
Peel
Ramsey
Liverpool
Chester
Holyhead
Anglesey
Bardsey I.
Aberystwith
Cardigan
Tenby
Milford Haven
Swansea
Bristol
Gloucester
Worcester
Hereford
Shrewsbury
Oxford
Reading
Salisbury
Winchester
Southampton
Portsmouth
Chichester
Arundel
Brighton
Lewes
Hastings
Dover
Deal
Sandwich
Margate
Ramsgate
Canterbury
Maidstone
Rochester
Chatham
Sheerness
Medway R.
Thames R.
Harwich
Ipswich
Yarmouth
Lowestoft
Norwich
Wells
Boston
Lincoln
Hull
Spurn H.d
Humber R.
Flamborough H.d
Scarborough
Whitby
Tees R.
Durham
Newcastle
Berwick
Holy I.
Coquet I.
Farn Islands
Cheviot Hills
Solway Firth
Forth Firth
Tay Firth
Aberdeen
Dee R.
Buchan Ness
Kinnaird H.d
Tarbat Ness
Caithness
Duncansby H.d
Pentland Firth

J. Gibson Sculp.

West Longitude from London

THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE AND ART DISPLAYED; IN A TOUR through the WORLD.

REVOLUTIONS and other Memorable Events in GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, continued from SECT. VI. of CHAP. I. PART. I.

WHENCE the name *Britain* was originally derived, is a queſtion upon which much learning and conjecture have been diſplayed to little purpoſe. Camden is of opinion, that the antient inhabitants called themſelves *Brith*, or *Brithon*, a Britiſh word, ſignifying, *painted* or *ſtained*, becauſe it was their cuſtom to paint their ſkins; from which word he thinks the Greeks, and after them the Romans, called the iſland *Britanea* and *Britannia*,

tannia, to expreſs the country of the *Briths* or *Brithons*; and it is certain that the Romans diſtinguiſhed thoſe Britons, who lived without the bounds of the Roman province, and had not yet ſubmitted to imitate the Roman cuſtoms, but continued their old practice of painting their bodies, by the name of *Picti*, or the *painted People*. However, among the many opinions and conjectures of authors upon this ſubject, the moſt general at preſent appears to be, that the Phœnicians, who traded to the ſouth-weſt part of the iſland, principally for *tin*, called it *Bratanack*, which in their language ſignifies the *Land of Tin*; and it is obſerved that the name of many places in Cornwall at this day is of Phœnician derivation.

From what other *Britain* this iſland came to be diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Great Britain*, is not certainly known. The names *Great Britain* and *Little Britain* are uſed by Ptolemy; and Camden is of opinion, that by *Great Britain* he underſtood England, Scotland and Wales, as at this day; and that by *Little Britain* he meant Ireland: but others have thought, that, by *Great Britain*, he meant England and Wales, and by *Little Britain*, Scotland.

Another name by which Great Britain was known to the Greeks is that of *Albion*, the derivation of which is equally doubtful. Some have derived it from the Greek Αλφος, the Latin *Album*, or the Celtic *Alb*, which ſignify *white*,

white, and, it is ſuppoſed, were applied to the Chalky cliffs of Britain ſeen from the Continent. The name Albion has by various authors been derived from a variety of other origins: but it would appear to have been one of the firſt names of this iſland: for the inhabitants of the Highlands of Scotland, at this day, call their country *Albin*, and diſtinguiſh themſelves from the other inhabitants of Britain, by the name *Albanich*, or the people of Albin.

Concerning the firſt inhabitants of Britain, the moſt probable opinion ſeems to be, that they came from the neighbouring continent of France: this opinion is greatly ſupported by the narrowneſs of the ſtreight of Dover, which parts Britain from France, and is but twenty miles broad. There is alſo an antient tradition, importing that Britain was originally joined to France, by an iſthmus between Dover upon the continent of Britain, and Calais upon the continent of France; but that they were ſevered by the Univerſal Deluge, or ſome other violent ſhock of nature; and there was a great affinity between the religion, manners, cuſtoms, and complexions of the antient Gauls and Britons.

At what time Britain began to be inhabited is not known; but it appears to have been well peopled before it was diſcovered by the Phœnicians, about four hundred and fifty years before the birth of Chriſt; and about three

hundred years before the Chriſtian æra, a trade was opened to theſe parts by the Carthaginians.

The firſt inhabitants of Britain and Ireland were the Celtæ, called alſo Galatæ, Gauls, and Cimbri; and it is ſuppoſed that they came over in two principal colonies. When Julius Cæſar arrived in this iſland, about fifty-five years before the Chriſtian æra, he found the eaſtern parts of Britain poſſeſſed by the Belgæ, who introduced the practice of agriculture and trade. The weſtern parts were inhabited by the Cumri, who were thus called as being deſcended from the antient Cimbri: the Cumri are ſuppoſed to be the original Britons, who are ſaid to have avoided all correſpondence with the Belgæ, whom they conſidered as new comers and interlopers, who had incroached upon their poſſeſſions.

Theſe antient Britons are repreſented as a rude warlike people, extremely numerous, and living in hovels, which they built in the woods; they ſowed no corn, but fed large herds of cattle, and lived upon fleſh and milk; they were tall, well made, and generally had yellow hair, which flowed upon their backs and ſhoulders; but they ſhaved the face, all except the upper lip. With the juice of woad they painted their bodies, which had no covering, but the ſkins of beaſts caſually thrown over them, without having been ſhaped into a garment of any kind; they uſed promiſcuous and

and inceſtuous copulation; and the children of every woman were reckoned the progeny of the man who deflowered her.

The antient Britons were divided into ſeparate clans or tribes, each of which was governed by a ſeparate Lord, and from among theſe Lords a general was elected in time of common danger, who was then inveſted with ſupreme command. They had a kind of civil and religious government, which was chiefly adminiſtred by the Druids, who were their prieſts, and without whoſe concurrence no judicial determination was made, nor any public meaſure undertaken.*

As Britain was then divided into many petty governments, ſo the inhabitants were diſtinguiſhed into various names, of which the following are the principal: the Cantii, inhabitants of Kent; the Regni, of Suſſex and Surry; the Durotriges, of Dorſetſhire; the Danmonii, of Devonſhire and Cornwall; the Belgæ, of Somerſetſhire, Wiltſhire and Hampſhire; the Attrebatii, of Berkſhire; the Dobuni, of Glouceſterſhire and Oxfordſhire; the Catticuchlani, of Warwickſhire, Buckinghamſhire and Bedfordſhire; the Trinobantes, of Hertfordſhire, Eſſex and Middleſex; the Iceni, of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeſhire and Huntingtonſhire; the Coritani, of Lincolnſhire, Leiceſterſhire, Rutlandſhire, Derbyſhire, Nottinghamſhire and Northamptonſhire; the Cornavii, of

* See Vol. II. p. 143.

Worceſterſhire, Staffordſhire, Shropſhire and Cheſhire; the Brigantes, of Yorkſhire, Lancaſhire, Durham, Weſtmoreland and Cumberland; the Ottadini, of Northumberland, and the next four counties in Scotland; the Silures, of Herefordſhire, Radnorſhire and Glamorganſhire; the Ordovices, of Montgomeryſhire, Merionythſhire, Caernarvonſhire, Flintſhire and Denbighſhire; the Dimetæ, inhabitants of Caermarthenſhire, Pembrokeſhire and Cardiganſhire.

Such was the general ſtate of this iſland when Julius Cæſar, having conquered Gaul, formed a deſign to invade Britain, which was then almoſt altogether unknown to the Romans. The pretence he made for his deſigned invaſion was that the Britons aſſiſted the Gauls, during the time he waged war againſt that nation: but his deſign being communicated to the inhabitants of the maritime parts of Britain, they ſent Ambaſſadors to him, with a tender of their ſubmiſſion, and promiſed to deliver hoſtages for their good behaviour.

Cæſar, having received the Britiſh Ambaſſadors with great civility, diſmiſſed them to their own country, together with Comius, a Britiſh prince upon whom he could depend, and whom he directed to viſit the different ſtates of the iſland, and endeavour to perſuade them to make an alliance with the Romans, which, they might be aſſured, he would conclude with them, upon his arrival in the iſland.

Cæſar,

Cæſar, in the mean time, having received ſome intelligence of the coaſt of Britain, embarked two legions on board eighty tranſports, and ordered the cavalry to follow in eighteen more; and ſailing with a fair wind, landed at Deal in Kent, upon the twenty-ſixth day of Auguſt, in the afternoon according to Dr. Halley, and routed the Britons, who met him in vaſt numbers to oppoſe his landing.

The Britons, diſpirited at their defeat, immediately ſent ambaſſadors to implore the clemency of Cæſar, and along with them Comius, whom they had ſeized and impriſoned on his landing in the iſland, and before he had an opportunity of ſignifying the cauſe of his arrival. Cæſar accepted their ſubmiſſion, and demanded a certain number of hoſtages, part of whom were immediately delivered; but before the reſt could be brought from the remoter provinces of the iſland, a ſtorm aroſe which diſperſed the tranſports with the Roman cavalry on board, juſt as they had arrived off the Britiſh coaſt, and obliged them to return to the coaſt of France, which they gained with the utmoſt difficulty. In the ſame ſtorm, which was attended with a high tide, moſt of the Roman tranſports that lay on ſhore were filled with water, or broken to pieces, while thoſe which rode at anchor, ran foul one of another, and were ſhattered or otherwiſe rendered uſeleſs by the loſs of their anchors, cables, maſts, and ſails.

The Romans, by this diſaſter, apprehending themſelves in danger of not being able to return to Gaul for want of materials to refit their ſhattered fleet, and being deſtitute of proviſions, on which they could ſubſiſt through the winter in Britain, appeared greatly dejected, which the iſlanders perceiving, determined to ſeize this opportunity of breaking the treaty, and ſacrificing their invaders to the Genius of their country.

Cæſar, ſuſpecting their deſign, took the precautions neceſſary to defeat it, by ordering all the proviſions in the neighbourhood to be brought to the Roman camp. and diſpatching a frigate to Gaul, for materials to repair the ſhips, which, except twelve veſſels that periſhed in the ſtorm, were ſoon fitted for ſea. In the mean time, the ſeventh legion, as they went out to forage, as uſual unarmed and diſperſed, were ſuddenly attacked by the Britons, who cut off a few and diſordered the reſt: but being ſeaſonably relieved by Cæſar, who came to their aſſiſtance at the head of a few cohorts, the iſlanders judged proper to retreat, and the Romans to return to their camp. The Britons, however, ſtill determined to take the advantage of the ſituation the Roman affairs were in at that juncture, aſſembled an immenſe number of horſe and foot, from different parts of the country, and boldly advanced to the Roman entrenchments: but being ſoon routed with a great ſlaughter, and their country laid

waſte

waſte by the Romans, they immediately ſent a deputation to ſupplicate the mercy of Cæſar, who concluded a peace with them, on condition that they ſhould ſend to the continent double the number of hoſtages he at firſt demanded; and, about the middle of September, he reimbarked with his army, and ſoon arrived on the continent.

The Britons, now finding themſelves delivered from the Romans, ſo far forgot the articles of peace they had juſt agreed to, that only two of their ſtates ſent over the hoſtages they had ſtipulated for, which giving Cæſar a fair pretence for making a ſecond deſcent upon Britain, he ordered the neceſſary preparations to be made for that purpoſe; and, about the beginning of Auguſt, the very next year, at ſun-ſet, he ſailed from Itium in Gaul, with five legions, two thouſand horſe, and a fleet conſiſting of eight hundred veſſels; and the next day, at noon, arrived at the place of his former deſcent, where he landed without oppoſition.

Cæſar, having encamped near the place of his landing, and leaving a ſufficient force to guard his navy, marched out in ſearch of the Britons; and, after advancing twelve miles, came in ſight of their army, which was encamped near a river, the paſſage of which they ſeemed determined to diſpute with him; but being ſoon drove from this poſt, they retreated with great precipitation, and fortified themſelves with

with felled timber in the middle of a wood, whence they were alſo diſlodged, and purſued with great ſlaughter, and in the utmoſt confuſion.

The next day, Cæſar received diſpatches with intelligence, that his fleet had ſuffered conſiderably by a ſtorm, in which many of his ſhips were ſhattered and caſt a ſhore, and forty totally loſt: upon this news, he immediately marched back to the ſea ſide, and ordered ſuch ſhips as had eſcaped the tempeſt to be drawn aſhore, and fortified with the ſame trench and rampart which ſurrounded his camp;* and having completed this vaſt work in ten days, and appointed a force ſufficient for its defence, he marched a ſecond time againſt the iſlanders, whom he found encamped, under Caſſivellaunus, in prodigious numbers, and in poſſeſſion of the very poſt from which they had about twelve days before been diſlodged.

The Romans during their march to this place were greatly harraſſed, by detachments of cavalry and chariots of war from the army under Caſſivellaunus; and while they were fortifying their camp, they were furiouſly charged by a conſiderable body of the iſlanders, who, in this attack, killed a great many of the Romans, and among the reſt Quintus Luberius Dorus, of whom mention has

* See Vol. II. p. 105.

has been already made in deſcribing the Roman antiquities of Kent.*

Next day as three legions, with all the cavalry, were foraging under the command of C. Trebonius, they were attacked by the Britons, who were ſoon put into confuſion; upon which the Roman horſe ſuddenly charged them with ſuch impetuoſity as intirely routed them.

Cæſar receiving intelligence that the Britiſh auxiliaries, who, from all quarters of the iſland, formed the army under Caſſivellaunus, being totally dejected by ſuch a ſeries of defeats, had returned home to their reſpective provinces, he determined to march into the territories of the Britiſh General, inhabited by the Trinobantes, which were divided from the maritime ſtates by the Thames, which river he purpoſed to croſs at the place now called Coway Stakes, mentioned before among the Roman antiquities of Surry,* where alone it was ſaid to be fordable for infantry.

Being arrived at this place, Cæſar found a conſiderable body of the enemy poſted on the oppoſite bank, which they had fortified with paliſadoes, beſides ſharp pointed ſtakes driven into the channel of the river: notwithſtanding theſe obſtructions, he ordered his horſe to take the ford, and the foot to follow; and his

* See Vol. II. p. 105.
* See Vol. II. p. 109.

orders

orders were immediately executed, with ſuch bravery and reſolution, that the Britons in the utmoſt conſternation, unable to bear the firſt onſet, abandoned their poſt and betook themſelves to a precipitate retreat.

The Trinobantes, with ſeveral other tribes of the Belgic Britons, finding Cæſar in the heart of their country, made their ſubmiſſion to him; and the Trinobantes in particular recommended to his protection and favour their prince Mandubratius, who had fled into Gaul, to avoid the fate of his father, whom Caſſivellaunus had murdered, after ſeizing on his dominions. And now Cæſar, underſtanding that he was but a ſmall diſtance from the chief town of Caſſivellaunus, reſolved to attack it, which he did ſo effectually, that the beſieged abandoned the place, though not before a great number of them had periſhed by the ſword.

During theſe tranſactions, Cingetorix, Carnelius, Taximagulus and Segonax, princes, who reigned on the ſouth ſide of the Thames, privately aſſembled their forces, to ſurpriſe the naval camp of the Romans, while Cæſar was at too great a diſtance to ſuccour the troops he had left on the ſea ſide; but this enterprize did not ſucceed; for as the Britons approached the Camp, the Romans ſallied out, made a great ſlaughter among them, and took Cingetorix priſoner.

Theſe frequent defeats, together with the revolt of his ſubjects and other ſtates, put Caſſivellaunus under the neceſſity of ſuing for peace, which he obtained, upon condition that the Britons ſhould pay an annual tribute to the Romans; and now Cæſar having received the hoſtages agreed upon, embarked on board his fleet, together with his whole army, and landed on the continent about the ſame time that he returned the preceding year.

Whether or not the Britons were punctual in fulfilling their engagements with Cæſar does not appear from hiſtory; but it is probable, that, during the civil wars in the Roman empire, after Cæſar's death, the tribute was not paid, nor perhaps demanded, the Roman ſtate having in that period too much other buſineſs upon their hands to think of Britain; and when Auguſtus threatned to compel the payment of it, he was either diverted by new troubles in the empire, or the Britons found means to pacify him.

In conſequence of theſe meaſures, the Britons lived in good friendſhip and harmony with the Romans, for the ſpace of above ninety years: but the Emperor Claudius, in the 43d year of the Chriſtian æra, ſent over into Britain a Roman army, under the command of Aulus Plautius, to reduce the iſland into a Roman province. Plautius, having landed in Kent, advanced by the ſame rout that Julius Cæſar had formerly taken, till he

reached the Thames, which he croſſed at Wallingford in Berkſhire; and in Oxfordſhire engaged Caratacus and Togodumnus, the ſons of Cunobeline, king of the Silures, whom he defeated in three pitched battles, in the laſt of which Togodumnus was ſlain. Plautius having obtained four ſucceſſive victories over the enemy, the Emperor Claudius, that he might have the honour of terminating the war in perſon, embarked with a conſiderable body of troops for Britain, and landed at Richborough in Kent, from which he marched to the banks of the Thames, where Plautius was encamped; and the two armies, being joined, croſſed the river in face of the enemy, who reſolutely diſputed the paſſage with the Romans; from thence the Emperor paſſed into the country of the Trinobantes, and took Camulodunum their capital city.

After this ſucceſsful expedition, Claudius returned to Rome, leaving Plautius governor of Britain, who carried on the conqueſts in conjunction with Veſpaſian, afterwards Emperor, and fought the Britons in thirty ſucceſſive battles. At length Plautius, being recalled, was ſucceeded by Oſtorius Scapula, who made Camulodunum a military colony.

About the ſame time London was made a trading colony, and that part of Britain ſouth of the Thames was made a Roman province, and called *Britannia Prima*.

After

After this, Oſtorius, having quelled ſeveral inſurrections, engaged the Britons under Caratacus, king of the Silures already mentioned, a brave and experienced general, whom the nations in alliance with the Silures had choſen commander in chief, and, after an obſtinate fight, totally routed them; and the gallant Caratacus, flying for protection to the Queen of the Brigantes, was by her delivered up to the Romans, after having commanded the confederate army of the Britons, with great bravery and various ſucceſs, for the ſpace of nine years.

Suetonius Paulinus, being ſent over to Britain, in the reign of the Emperor Nero, in the year of Chriſt 58, marched into the iſle of Angleſea, then called Mona; but before he had completed the conqueſt of that iſland, it happened, that Boadicea, widow of Praſatagus, King of the Iceni, having been greatly provoked by ſome indignities offered to her and her family by the Romans, animated her countrymen to a revolt, which the violence and injuſtice of the Roman officers, and the grievous impoſitions that were laid upon them, had already prepared them for. Accordingly the whole iſland was ſeized with the ſpirit of an univerſal revolution, which quickly broke out; and Boadicea, a princeſs of great ſpirit and fine ſtature, headed the revolters, who, in the abſence of their general, fell with great fury upon the Romans, diſperſed throughout the iſland, and maſſacred them, without diſ-

tinction of age or ſex, ſo that 80,000 perſons are computed to have periſhed.

Suetonius, being informed of this rebellion, quits the iſle of Angleſea, to march againſt the enemy, who had now an army of 100,000 men, and were advancing to meet and give him battle: but the Roman general engaging them with 10,000 veterans, at a narrow paſs, where their ſuperiority of numbers could be of no ſervice to them, the Britons were entirely defeated, with the loſs of 80,000 men; and Boadicea, finding all was loſt, diſpatched herſelf with a doſe of poiſon.

The Britons by this defeat were reduced ſo low, that the Romans would, in all probability, have completed the conqueſt of the iſland, if they had not quarrelled amongſt themſelves; but theſe diſſenſions, together with other confuſions that happened in other parts of the Roman Empire, gave the Britons ſome reſpite: however, in the year 78, towards the end of the reign of Veſpaſian, Julius Agricola, a great commander, arrived in Britain, and finiſhed the conqueſt of the whole iſland, by ſubduing Wales and Scotland, and defeating Galagus, the laſt of the Britiſh princes that made any conſiderable oppoſition to the Roman arms, near the Grampian mountains, in the county of Marr, in Scotland, about the year of the Chriſtian æra 84.

This battle, in which the Britons loſt 10,000 men, gave the finiſhing ſtroke to Britiſh liberty: for now all that part of the iſland ſouth of the Friths of Edinburgh and Dunbarton, or the Glotta and Bodotria of the Romans, was reduced into a Roman province, and defended by a wall, and a line of forts, running between the two friths, the whole breadth of the iſland, called at this day Graham's Dike, of which mention has been made already; * and all north of the wall, and without the Roman pale, whither the Picts, or ſuch antient Britons had retired, as were determined not to ſubmit to the Romans, was denominated Caledonia.

About the year 117, the Caledonians made an irruption into the Roman province, after having demoliſhed ſome of the fortreſſes between the friths of Forth and Clyde. Upon this news, the Emperor Adrian came to Britain, and marched againſt the enemy, who, as the Emperor advanced, retreated north; but Adrian, not thinking it adviſeable to purſue them, left the Caledonians all the country north of the river Tine, in hopes, by enlarging their bounds, to keep them quiet: but at the ſame time, to ſecure the ſubjects of the Empire from their incurſions, he cauſed a rampart of earth to be thrown up, and covered with turf, from the mouth of the river Tine to the Solway Frith, which rampart alſo has

 been

* See Vol. II. p. 135.

been mentioned already in another part of this work.*

In the year 205, and in the reign of the Emperor Severus, the Caledonians made ſuch advances into the Roman province, that the Emperor reſolved to go in perſon againſt them. Being accordingly arrived in Britain, with a numerous army, he with great toil penetrated to the northern extremity of the iſland; and ſubdued this fierce and hitherto unconquered people. In this expedition he loſt no leſs than 50,000 men, but as he could not keep the country in ſubjection, without a great army on the ſpot, he relinquiſhed his conqueſts, and contented himſelf with dividing the iſland once more, by a wall of free-ſtone running parallel on the ſouth ſide to the rampart thrown up by Adrian, and now called the Picts Wall, the ruins of which are ſtill viſible in many places, and are reckoned the moſt conſiderable remains of Roman antiquities in this iſland. Some authors are of opinion, that Severus did no more than repair Adrian's wall, and that the Picts wall was built under the direction of Ætius the Roman general, about the year 430; but be that as it will, the Emperor Severus died at York, as did alſo the Emperor Conſtantius, the father of Conſtantine the Great.

During the reign of Conſtantine the Great, the iſland enjoyed a perfect tranquility; and as he was the firſt Chriſtian Emperor, he granted the

* See Vol. II. p. 58.

the liberty of profeſſing that religion throughout the Empire, which the Britons of courſe enjoyed.

This Emperor divided that part of Britain which belonged to the Romans into three provinces, *viz.* Britannia Prima, comprehending that part of the iſland ſouth of the Thames, the capital of which was London; Britannia Secunda, all weſt of the Severn, comprehending Wales, the capital of which was Caerleon; and Maxima Cæſarienſis, containing all northward of the Thames, and eaſtward of the Severn, the capital of which was York. This laſt diviſion was afterwards ſubdivided into two parts; the ſouthern part retaining the old name of Maxima Cæſarienſis, and the northern part being called Flavia Cæſarienſis.

About the year 393, the Picts, Scots and Iriſh again invaded the Roman province, and the Saxon pirates greatly infeſted the coaſts. The Picts and Scots advanced to the Picts wall, and, there not being forces enough left by the Romans, who for the moſt part were called home, to defend the Empire from the incurſions of the Goths, Vandals, and other northern nations, they with little oppoſition proceeded ſouthward, and laid waſte the country. The Britons, being now in the utmoſt diſtreſs, ſent ſeveral meſſages to the Emperor Honorius, imploring his aſſiſtance: but Honorius not being in condition to ſuccour them, the city of Rome itſelf having been juſt taken and ſacked

ſacked by the Goths, and to rid himſelf at once from their importunities, in the year 410, diſcharged the Britons from their allegiance to the Romans. However, in the reign of Valentinian the Third, the Romans out of compaſſion ſent a legion to Britain, which drove back the Picts and Scots to their own country; and ſoon afterwards the Romans withdrew totally from this iſland.

After the departure of the Romans from Britain, the Picts and Scots began to harraſs the Britons more than ever. They attacked the Picts wall, which had been repaired, broke it down in ſeveral places, and made frequent incurſions upon their neighbours, who were forced to abandon part of their country, and retire farther ſouthward. At length they ſued for peace, which was granted them, on condition that they ſhould ſurrender all the country north of the Humber to the Picts and Scots, who accordingly took poſſeſſion of it; and ſome time afterwards, taking advantage of the diſorders and diviſions among the Britons, occaſioned by the contentions among their petty princes, they paſſed the Humber, and laid waſte the country in a terrible manner.

In order therefore to oppoſe the progreſs of thoſe people, the Britons, about the year 445, choſe Vortigern, Prince of the Danmonii, for their general and ſovereign, who at length adviſed them to a meaſure, which in the end proved their entire deſtruction, by inviting the

Saxons,

Saxons, a warlike people from Germany, to aſſiſt them in the defence of their country againſt the Picts and Scots.

In conſequence of this invitation, Hengiſt and Horſa, two brothers, came over with about 1500 men, and, landing in the iſle of Thanet in Kent, were immediately put in poſſeſſion of that iſland, according to a previous agreement.

Vortigern, being now joined by the Saxons, marched againſt the Picts and Scots, who were advanced as far as Stamford, in Lincolnſhire, and attacked them with ſuch ſucceſs, that he obtained a complete victory, and recovered all the booty which the vanquiſhed had acquired.

After this action, the Saxons returned to the place appointed for their reſidence, and were ſupplied with all ſorts of neceſſaries at the expence of Vortigern, who would have no cauſe to repent of their arrival, could he have kept their number from increaſing: but the very next year, the two brothers were reinforced by no leſs than five thouſand of their countrymen, who arrived in eighteen veſſels, with their wives and families; and they were afterwards augmented, by daily ſupplies, to ſuch a formidable number, that the Britons began to ſee the danger of the ſtep they had taken; and after having expoſtulated with their mercenaries, on the breach of the contract, which reſtricted

reſtricted them to a certain number, deſired them in a peremptory manner to go in ſearch of another ſettlement, and at the ſame time they exclaimed loudly againſt Vortigern for having invited ſuch a rapacious crew into their country.

Hengiſt, who had a great ſhare of cunning and diſcernment, did not fail to profit by this ſpirit of diſatisfaction among the Britons: He repreſented to Vortigern the danger he was in from the diſaffection of his ſubjects, and the neceſſity of maintaining his government by foreign auxiliaries: he inſinuated himſelf into his confidence and eſteem; and finding that Vortigern was amorous, he contrived an interview between him and his daughter Rowena, with whoſe beauty the King was ſo captivated, that he not only married this Saxon lady, though he had then another wife alive, but even purchaſed her conſent, by giving her father Hengiſt and his brother Horſa the entire ſovereignty of Kent, with leave to people it with Saxons.

The Saxons, being now ſtrong enough to avow their ambitious deſigns, induſtriouſly ſought to quarrel with the Britons, pretending that their pay was not regularly advanced, nor their proviſions furniſhed in ſufficient quantities, according to the ſtipulations of their original contract; they therefore demanded their arrears, and threatned to do themſelves juſtice, if they were not quickly paid.

The

The firſt rupture of the Britons with the Saxons was under the command of Vortimer, the eldeſt ſon of Vortigern, in the year 455, when a battle was fought, in which Horſa was ſlain, and in which, it is ſaid, the Britons had the advantage.

At length the Britons had recourſe for aſſiſtance to their friends in Armorica, who ſent over Ambroſius Aurelianus, deſcended from the old race of the Britiſh kings, at the head of 10,000 troops: but now a civil war broke out between the party of Ambroſius, and that of Vortimer, in which the Britons miſerably harraſſed one another, while the Saxons made their advantage of theſe diviſions: and growing more powerful every day, by the continual reinforcments they received from Germany, they ſtruck up a peace with the Picts, the more effectually to annoy the Britons. However, after a war of twenty years, at the end of which Vortimer died, both ſides were inclined to a peace, which was concluded, in 475, on condition each party ſhould retain what they were then in poſſeſſion of.

This peace, however, was but of a ſhort duration; for Hengiſt, being diſappointed in his hopes of making himſelf maſter of Britain, and finding that he was unable to accompliſh his ends by force of arms, had recourſe to treachery. Under pretence of accommodating all diſputes with the Britons, he perſuaded their nobility to meet him and his chieftians

chieftians on Saliſbury plain, where, after they had feaſted together, the Saxons, at a certain ſignal drew their poniards, which they had concealed for that purpoſe, and aſſaſſinated all the Britiſh nobles, to the number of three hundred.

This tranſaction rendering the Saxons more odious than ever to the Britons, a war immediately broke out, in which the Britons, firſt under Ambroſius, and then under the famous Arthur, of whom many fabulous ſtories have been related, obtained many ſignal victories over their enemies; but by this long and deſtructive war they were perfectly waſted and diminiſhed, while the Saxons were continually recruited, by vaſt numbers from their native country, conſiſting chiefly of Jutes and Angles, two tribes of Saxons, who were comprehended under the general name of *Anglo* Saxons, from whom South Britain afterwards took the name of *England*, or the country of the Angles, or Anglo Saxons. Under theſe circumſtances, the Britains, after the death of Ambroſius and Arthur, who both fell in battle, were entirely ſubdued, to which they themſelves contributed not a little, by their own diſſenſions, occaſioned by the ambitious ſtruggles for the preeminence among their leaders.

The principal events by which this great revolution was accompliſhed are thoſe following: In the year 477, a band of Saxons, commanded by Ella and his three ſons, landed in Suſſex;

Suſſex; and having defeated the Britons, who attempted to oppoſe them, ſettled them by degrees along the ſouthern coaſt, from which circumſtance they were called *South Saxons*, and their country *Suſſex*. Thoſe Saxons whom Hengiſt had ſettled on the eaſtern coaſt, were called *Eaſt Saxons*, and their country *Eſſex*; and the country between theſe two was termed *Middleſex*; but Kent retained its antient name.

King Vortigern, being purſued by Ambroſius, as an enemy to his country, fled to a caſtle in Radnorſhire, where he was cloſely beſieged; during which time, the caſtle taking fire, was burnt to the ground, and he periſhed in the flames, about the year 485.

Three years afterwards Hengiſt died, at the age of ſeventy years, thirty-nine of which he paſſed in Britain, and the laſt thirty-three as King of Kent. Soon after the death of Hengiſt, Ella aſſumed the ſtile of King of the South Saxons; and about the year 495, a Saxon chief called Cerdic, with his ſon Kenrick, arrived in Britain; and having eſtabliſhed himſelf, after many bloody battles, for the ſpace of twenty years, aſſumed the title of King of the Weſt Saxons. This Cerdic, being from time to time reinforced with new ſupplies of Saxon troops from Germany, was at length conſtituted commander in chief of all the Saxons in Britain, who united their

forces the better to withſtand the progreſs of the victorious Arthur.

About the year 530, Cerdic conquered the Iſle of Wight, and put all the inhabitants to the ſword; ſoon after which, he ſent over to Germany a general invitation to all ſuch adventurers as had a mind to come and ſettle in his kingdom: in conſequence of that invitation, 800 veſſels arrived in his ports, on board of which were vaſt numbers of Saxons and Jutes, with their families, who ſettled in his territories in place of the Britons whom he had expelled.

About the year 527, Erchenwin aſſumed the title of King of Eſſex, or of the Eaſt Saxons. About the ſame time, a great number of Angles, under the conduct of Uffa, and other Saxon chiefs, landing upon the eaſtern coaſt of Britain, founded the kingdom of the Eaſt Angles; and Ida, with a great many of his countrymen, landing in Yorkſhire, among the Northumbrian Saxons, got himſelf acknowledged King of all the Saxons north of the river Humber, by the ſtile of King of Northumberland: but this kingdom was afterwards divided into two parts, the north diſtinguiſhed by the name of Bernicia, and the South by that of Deira.

Keaulin, the third King of the Weſt Saxons, being an ambitious Prince, formed deſigns of enlarging his dominions; and, turning his arms

arms againſt his countrymen, reduced the Kings of Kent, Eſſex and Suſſex, to his ſubjection; after which he attacked the Britons, who, being now threatned with a total extermination, applied to the Scots for ſuccours, and were accordingly ſupplied with a ſtrong body of forces, while the army of Keaulin was reinforced by the Picts and the Northumbrian Saxons: but the Britons and Scots were defeated; and to compleat the ruin of the Britons, Crida, a Saxon, arrived with a larger fleet than any that had before then come from Germany, bringing over a vaſt number of Angles. He marched towards the middle of the iſland, and having founded the kingdom of Mercia, obliged the Britons to retire beyond the Severn, into Cambria, or Wales, where they remain to this day.

The Britons being now totally confined to Wales and Cornwall, and England divided into ſeven Kingdoms, called the Saxon Heptarchy, it was not long before one of the ſeven Saxon Kings aſſumed a ſuperiority over the reſt, and rendered them in ſome meaſure dependent upon him. Ethelbert, the fifth King of Kent, was the firſt who claimed ſuch a ſuperiority, as being deſcended from Hengiſt the firſt of the Saxon Kings. This claim he was enabled to vindicate, by an alliance with the King of France, in marrying his daughter Britha, who was a Chriſtian; and Britha bringing over a biſhop with her, Pope Gregory the firſt looked upon this as a favourable oppor-

tunity of introducing Chriſtianity among the Saxons, who were yet pagans. Accordingly, in the year 598, he ſent over Auſtin, a monk, to King Ethelbert's court, in order to prevail on this prince to profeſs Chriſtianity, which his queen had repreſented in ſo fair a light to him, that Auſtin found no great difficulty in converting both the King and his ſubjects. The Pope, hearing of the ſucceſs of his miſſionary Auſtin among the Saxons of Kent, conſecrated biſhops, whom he diſpatched with other miſſionaries into other parts of England, particularly to the kingdom of the Eaſt Saxons, where Sebert then reigned, who conſented to be baptized.

Ethelbert, having founded the cathedral church of St. Paul, at London, about the year 610, propoſed an union between the Roman church and the Chriſtian church in Wales: but the Welch clergy differing with the Romon miſſionaries, about the time of the celebration of Eaſter, this union could not take place; upon which, it is ſaid, that Auſtin threatned, and promoted the deſtruction of the Britiſh Chriſtians, becauſe they would not comply with him. Auſtin was the firſt archbiſhop of Canterbury, and died in the year 605; and in about ſixty years after his arrival, all England was converted to Chriſtianity, the kingdom of Mercia being the laſt that embraced the new religion.

Thus

Thus the Saxons, of groſs idolaters, became pure Chriſtians, and though Auſtin has run away with the honour of converting the Engliſh nation, yet the progreſs he made was not ſo conſiderable as was generally imagined, the Scotch monks, of St. Columba, having as great a ſhare in the work as he and his companions.

After the death of Ethelbert, King of Kent, Redwald, King of the Eaſt Angles, obtained the ſuperiority over the reſt of the Saxon Kings. After him Ethelwald, King of Mercia, rendered the other Saxon kingdoms, in a great meaſure, dependent upon him; and it was in this prince's time, that a penny was levied on every houſe, for the uſe of the Pope, which tax was afterwards denominated Peter-pence. About the ſame time Ina, King of the Weſt Saxons, reſigned his crown, and retired to a monaſtery at Rome; and during the heptarchy, no leſs than thirty Saxon Kings reſigned their crowns, and devoted themſelves to a religious life.

Egbert, King of the Weſt Saxons, who began his reign in the year 800, ſubdued the Britons in Cornwall, about the year 823; together with thoſe of Venedotia, one of the three kingdoms, into which Wales was then divided. In the year 827, or 828, he completed the diſſolution of the Saxon heptarchy, by reducing all the other kingdoms to his obedience; and in 829, having ſummoned a

general council of the clergy as well as laity, at the city of Wincheſter, he was ſolemnly crowned King of Britain; and this ceremony was no ſooner performed, than he iſſued an edict for aboliſhing all diſtinctions among the Saxon kingdoms, and commanded that the united heptarchy ſhould be thence forward called by the common name of England.

England was, however, no ſooner united under one ſovereign, but the public tranquility was interrupted by the deſcent of the Danes, who had already made ſome inconſiderable attempts upon different parts of Britain in queſt of plunder. In the year 831. they landed in the iſle of Sheppey, in Kent, which they ravaged, and then returned to their ſhips, laden with booty, without meeting with the leaſt interruption. This ſucceſs encouraged them to try their fortune next year at the mouth of the Tyne, where, having received a ſmall check, they hoiſted ſail, and cruiſing along the coaſt, made a deſcent at Charmouth, in Dorſetſhire, where they landed to the number of 15000 men. Egbert was no ſooner appriſed of their landing, than he marched againſt them, at the head of a ſmall body of troops, ſuch as he could haſtily draw together: but the Danes ſtanding their ground, inſtead of repairing to their ſhips, as Egbert imagined they would have done, after a long and bloody battle, they became victorious, and entirely routed the Engliſh army; two Saxon Earls, Dudda and Oſmund, being

ing ſlain, and Egbert himſelf narrowly eſcaping with his life, by the favour of a dark night. But the Danes, having no deſign at this time to make conqueſts, after plundering the country, retreated to their ſhips, and returned to their own country.

Two years after this adventure, the Danes, having equipped a great naval armament, landed in Cornwall, and being joined by the Britons, they advanced towards the borders of Devonſhire, with a view to penetrate into the territories of Egbert, who gave them battle at Hengſdown-hill, near Kellington, in Cornwall, where they were totally routed, and almoſt their whole united army cut in pieces. By this great victory, Egbert entirely wiped off the ſlight ſtain which had ſtuck to his reputation ſince the action of Charmouth; and in 838 died at Winchester, which he made the capital of his dominions, as many of his ſucceſſors did afterwards.

Egbert was ſucceeded by his ſon Ethelwulph, in the firſt year of whoſe reign, a body of Danes, in three and thirty ſhips, arrived at Southampton, where they had ſcarce begun to ravage the country, before they were attacked and routed by Wulpheard, one of Ethelwulph's generals, who died very ſoon after his ſucceſs. But before the Engliſh troops could be diſmiſſed, intelligence was brought Ethelwulph, that thoſe enterpriſing pirates had landed at Portland, whether the army was ordered

ordered under the command of Edelhelm, who was ſhamefully defeated, and put to flight; and Herbert, who ſucceeded him as general, was not only beaten, but killed in battle. Upon this ſucceſs the Danes over-ran ſeveral parts of England, and Canterbury, Rocheſter, and London, were cruelly harraſſed by them. At laſt being ſatisfied with their booty, they returned to their ſhips.

In the year 840, another body of Danes made a deſcent at Charmouth, where they had formerly defeated King Egbert, and were attacked by Ethelwulph in perſon, who had the misfortune to be beaten, by which means the enemy went off ſafe with their plunder.

Ethelwulph, tired with the repeated invaſions of the Danes, in order to eaſe himſelf of part of the care of government, beſtowed the kingdoms of the Eaſt and South Saxons, together with that of Kent, upon his eldeſt ſon Athelſtan, who, in 851, equipped a fleet and engaging the Danes near Sandwich, took nine of their ſhips. About the ſame time, theſe reſtleſs barbarians landed on the coaſt of Suſſex, where, being attacked by Ceorle, Ethelwulph's general, they were entirely routed; notwithſtanding which, the next Spring they ſailed up the Thames with three hundred ſhips, and landed near London. After plundering London and Canterbury, they penetrated into Mercia, where they routed ſome troops that attempted

attempted to oppoſe their progreſs: but having repaſſed the Thames, with a view to engage Ethelwulph and Athelſtan, who were encamped near Okely, in Surry, a bloody battle enſued, in which the Engliſh defeated them, and made ſuch terrible ſlaughter of them, that but few eſcaped. In this action Athelſtan, to whoſe valour the victory was in a great meaſure owing, is ſuppoſed to have been killed.

Athelſtan was ſucceeded by his next brother Ethelbald; an dtheir father Ethelwulph dying in 857, was buried at Wincheſter, near his father Egbert. Some ſhort time before his death, he diſpoſed of his dominions by will to Ethelbert his ſecond ſurviving ſon; after him, to Ethelred his third ſon; and then to Alfred, his youngeſt ſon, who all in their turns ſucceeded to the crown; their eldeſt brother Ethelbald dying in the year 860, and Ethelbert in 866.

In the reign of Ethelred, the Danes became more formidable in England than ever. Inſtead of contenting themſelves with plundering the country as before, they now reſolved to make a ſettlement in this iſland, in which they were encouraged from the following circumſtances.

The authority which Egbert exerciſed over the kingdoms of Mercia, Eaſt Anglia, and Northumberland, had lately been much diminiſhed by the incurſions of the Danes, which obliged

obliged the Kings of the Weſt Saxons to reſerve their whole power for the defence of their own original dominions; ſo that theſe three kingdoms began to withdraw by degrees from the ſupremacy of Egbert's ſucceſſors; and the Northumbrians, as being the moſt remote, ſhook off their independence intirely, and placed Oſbert on their throne. This prince happening to ſtop for refreſhment at the houſe of a nobleman, called Bruen Bocard, who was ſuperintendant of the ſea coaſt againſt the incurſions of the Danes, and at that time abſent upon his duty, was captivated with the beauty of Earl Bruen's wife, whom he raviſhed, when he found he could by no other method induce her to comply with his wiſhes. The huſband was no ſooner acquainted with this outrage upon his honour, than he determined to ſtick at nothing to be revenged; and, being a perſon of influence in the kingdom, excited ſuch a ſpirit of reſentment againſt the raviſher, that the Bernicians actually revolted, and placed Ella upon the throne; ſo that a civil war broke out between the provinces of Bernicia and Deira, into which the kingdom of Northumberland was divided.

Bruen Bocard thinking his revenge ſtill incomplete, ſo long as Oſbert remained on the Throne of Deira, unfortunately for the whole iſland, reſolved to apply for aſſiſtance to the Danes. Accordingly he went over to Denmark, and repreſented to Ivar, the King of that country, with what eaſe he might make him-

himſelf maſter of the kingdom of Northumberland, whilſt it was weakened by ſuch inteſtine diviſions. Ivar, whoſe father, whilſt a priſoner in England, had been treacherouſly murdered, readily embraced a ſcheme, in the ſucceſs of which he might at once gratify his revenge and his ambition. Having, therefore, equipped a powerful armament in the winter, he ſet ſail in the Spring accompanied by his brother Hubba, and Bruen Bocard, who undertook to conduct the expedition.

The Danes, having entered the Humber, landed without oppoſition, and marched directly to York, where Oſbert was employed in making preparations to take the field againſt them; and where he charged them with ſuch fury, that they could ſcarce ſuſtain the ſhock: but recovering themſelves, they preſſed the Northumbrians in their turn, and obtained a complete victory; Oſbert himſelf being ſlain in the retreat, with many thouſands of his followers. Ella had agreed to join forces with Oſbert for their common defence; but Oſbert, being too precipitate, attacked the Danes before Ella came up: yet notwithſtanding the late defeat, Ella advanced, in hopes of repairing the loſs, and a battle enſued, which was as bloody as the former, and as fatal to the Engliſh, Ella being ſlain and his army entirely routed.

Ivar having now conquered Northumberland, marched into Mercia, plundering and ravaging

ravaging the country before him: but Buthred, King of Mercia, had time to prepare himſelf; and had called Ethelred his brother in law to his aſſiſtance, by whom he was ſtrengthened with a powerful reinforcement, The Daniſh prince, being ſtartled at the formidable appearance of the Engliſh army, would not venture immediately to attack it: and Buthred, dreading the iſſue of a battle, took the opportunity of this pauſe to offer the Dane a ſum of money, on condition he would quit his Dominions; the terms were accepted by Ivar, who returned to Northumberland: and in his march plundered all the convents and monaſteries to which the people had conveyed their moſt valuable effects.

Many towns, villages and monaſteries were burnt by the Danes in their route; the women were raviſhed, and the people murdered without diſtinction of age or ſex.

Ivar, leaving his brother Hubba in Northumberland, embarked with the flower of his troops, and made a deſcent upon the kingdom of the Eaſt Angles, where Edmund, King of that country, advancing againſt him, was defeated, and took ſanctuary in a church, from whence he was dragged before the conqueror, who is ſaid to have offered him his crown again, on condition he would do him homage, and pay him a tribute annually: but his propoſal being rejected by the King of Eaſt Anglia, the Dane ordered him to be tied

to a tree, and ſhot at with arrows; and then commanded him to be beheaded. His head, being afterwards found, was buried with his body, at a town in Suffolk, called from him St. Edmund's bury; and a great many miracles were in thoſe times ſaid to have been performed at his tomb.

Ivar, having now ſubdued the kingdoms of Northumberland and Eaſt Anglia, reſolved to puſh his conqueſts further, and began to form a project of making himſelf maſter of the whole iſland. With this view he determined to turn his arms againſt Ethelred; and embarking his army, landed in the kingdom of Weſſex, and advanced as far as Reading, which he fortified, and whence he made frequent incurſions againſt the forces of Ethelred, who, with his brother Alfred, had by this time taken the field, at the head of a powerful army. Now began a briſk war, which was maintained with great bravery by both ſides; and in the compaſs of one year, no leſs than nine pitched battles were fought, with various ſucceſs; in the laſt of which Ethelred, who during the war gave many ſignal proofs of his courage and conduct, received a mortal wound, of which he died in 872, in the ſixth year of his reign; and was buried at Winborn-minſter, in Dorſetſhire, where a monument was erected to his memory, with an inſcription, which is to be ſeen to this day, and has

been taken notice of in a former part of this work.*

Ethelred, tho' he left ſeveral children, was ſucceeded by his youngeſt brother Alfred, upon whom the ſucceſſion was fixed by the will of their father Ethelwulph, and whoſe coronation was immediately performed at Wincheſter. When this great prince mounted the throne, the Danes were in poſſeſſion of Northumberland and Eaſt Anglia, and gained a footing in the very heart of Weſſex: all the churches and monaſteries were burn', and the whole face of the country deſolated.

He had ſcarce been a month on the throne, before he was obliged to take the field againſt this terrible enemy, who had advanced as far as Wilton, where a deſperate battle enſued, which ended to the diſadvantage of the Engliſh. Alfred, however, took ſuch meaſures for repairing the damages he had ſuſtained, that he was ſoon in a condition to hazard another engagement: but the Danes, dreading his military powers, propoſed terms of peace, and offered to quit his dominions, provided he would promiſe to give them no moleſtation in any other part of England, which, in the preſent exigency of affairs, he did not think proper to refuſe.

The Danes, marching out of Weſſex, turned their arms againſt Mercia: but Buthred,

* See Vol. II. p. 165.

King

King of that country, finding himſelf unable to cope with them, bought a peace from them, which they broke the very next year, and forcing him to quit his dominions, took poſſeſſion of his kingdom. Now the Danes, fixing themſelves in different habitations, began to cultivate the country, as if they had been natives of the ſoil; ſo that England was in a manner divided between the Danes and the Saxons.

In the year 875, a freſh army of Danes arriving in Eaſt Anglia, under their general, Halden, and not looking upon themſelves as bound by the treaty between Alfred and the other Danes, who were ſettled here, ſoon invaded the kingdom of Weſſex, and ſurpriſed the caſtle of Warham, in Dorſetſhire. They were, however, ſoon compelled to ſue for peace; and Halden entered into a treaty with Alfred, by which he ſolemnly ſwore never to enter his dominions any more; but this treaty was no ſooner concluded than it was broke by the Danes, who advanced directly to the city of Exeter, and laid ſiege to it. Upon this the war was renewed, and Alfred, with various ſucceſs, engaged Halden ſeven times in one campaign, and at laſt entered into a new treaty with him.

In 876, Rollo, a famous Daniſh general, with a formidable body of troops, made an attempt upon England: but finding Alfred in a condition to receive him, and being unwilling

to interfere with the conqueſts of his countrymen, he ſailed for the coaſt of France, to ſeek his fortune there, and conquered the part of that country afterwards called Normandy.

To prevent theſe frequent invaſions for the future, and in order to engage the Danes before they came to land, Alfred reſolved to provide himſelf with a navy, which was no ſooner fitted out, than the Engliſh gave chaſe to ſix Daniſh ſhips, took one of the largeſt, and threw the ſoldiers and mariners over board. Some time afterwards, Alfred's navy attacked a fleet of a hundred and twenty Daniſh tranſports, which were making aſhore, to land their men, and ſunk the greateſt part of them; and the year following, a Daniſh fleet met with ſo violent a ſtorm, that moſt of the ſhips were caſt away; and ſuch as eſcaped periſhing by the ſtorm, fell into the hands of the Engliſh.

In the mean time, the Danes arrived in ſuch numbers from the continent, that there was not room for them in the three kingdoms, which they were already poſſeſſed of; and in order to remove this inconvenience, and to prevent themſelves from being driven out of their preſent poſſeſſions by new adventurers, they all agreed to make one general effort againſt Weſſex. This expedition was carried on with ſuch ſecrecy and diſpatch, that the Danes poured into that kingdom a prodigious army, before Alfred could put himſelf into a poſture of defence

ſence; and, in a few days, made themſelves maſters of Chippenham, in Wiltſhire, one of the beſt fortified cities in Weſſex. By this ſudden invaſion the Weſt Saxons were ſeized with ſuch a panic, that many of them fled for protection to Wales and Scotland; and the followers of Alfred were reduced to a few domeſtics, whom at length he diſmiſſed, in order the better to ſhift for his own ſafety: then diſguiſing himſelf in the habit of a common ſoldier, he engaged in the ſervice of his own cowherd, in the iſle of Athelney * in Somerſetſhire, with whom he continued near ſix months, concealed from both friends and foes, till fortune had given his affairs a very ſurpriſing turn.

Hubba, who commanded the Daniſh forces in the abſence of his brother Ivar, who was returned to Denmark, had entered Devonſhire with his army, and inveſted the caſtle of Kenwith, in that county, to which Odun, Earl of Devonſhire, had retreated with a ſmall body of troops, upon the approach of the Danes. This gallant nobleman, finding himſelf unable to ſuſtain a ſiege, and knowing there was no ſafety in ſurrendering to ſuch an enemy as the Danes, repreſented to his little corps, that they had nothing to depend upon but their valour, and propoſed that they ſhould cut their way ſword in hand through the enemy: the propoſal being embraced, they ſallied out upon the beſiegers, and not only routed them, with a great

* See Vol. II. p. 192.

great ſlaughter, but ſlew Hubba, and took his famous ſtandard, called the Raven, which the Danes revered with the greateſt ſuperſtition.

Alfred, hearing of this victory, aſſembled his friends, in order to conſult upon the meaſures proper to be taken at this juncture, when it was immediately agreed to draw together ſuch troops as were diſperſed in different parts of the kingdom. In order to gain a perfect knowlege of the enemy's poſture, the King entered their camp in the habit of a harper, and remained amongſt them for ſome days; and having made the obſervations neceſſary, collected his troops together in the foreſt of Selwood, in Somerſetſhire, from whence he marched with ſuch ſecrecy and expedition, that he was in ſight of the enemy before they knew he had taken the field; and, before he gave them time to recover from their ſurpriſe, fell upon them with ſuch fury that he entirely routed them. The few that eſcaped betook themſelves to a caſtle, but were ſoon forced to ſurrender, upon condition either to turn Chriſtians, or quit the iſland, and to give him hoſtages for the performance of articles. Thoſe who refuſed to embrace the Chriſtian religion were ſhipped off, and ſuch as were baptiſed had lands aſſigned them in Eaſt Anglia; and thus Alfred not only recovered the kingdom of Weſſex, but the ſovereignty of all England; the Danes who were ſettled in Northumberland, Mercia, and Eaſt Anglia, ſubmitting,

ſubmitting, and ſwearing allegiance to him.

Alfred, having now fortified the ſea coaſts, reduced the city of London, which, with the kingdom of Mercia, he beſtowed as a fief upon his ſon-in-law Ethelred. The princes of North and South Wales did homage to him; and having thus eſtabliſhed his authority, he employed himſelf in cultivating the arts of peace, and repairing the miſchiefs with which the war had been attended.

He is ſaid to have reſtored, if not founded, the Univerſity of Oxford, and to have divided England into counties, hundreds, tythings, and pariſhes. He made a collection of the beſt Saxon laws, and firſt reduced them to writing; to which he made ſeveral excellent additions of his own, agreeable to the circumſtances of the times.

But while he was buſied in theſe and other wiſe regulations, the Danes, under Haſting, invaded England once more, in the year 897; and being joined by many of their countrymen who were in England before, they laid ſiege to the city of Exeter, which Alfred compelled them to raiſe; upon which they retired to Eaſt Anglia. There collecting a freſh body of troops, and receiving conſiderable reinforcements from the Danes in Northumberland, they ſet out again for Wales, and marched with ſuch

ſuch expedition, that they arrived at Cheſter, where they fortified themſelves, before the Engliſh forces could come up.

Having wintered here, they began their march the beginning of Spring for Northumberland; afterwards arrived in Eaſt Anglia; and at length, after remaining in England three years, they were compelled to quit the kingdom; and thus Alfred, having once more eſtabliſhed the peace of the country, by the expulſion of thoſe invaders, died in the year 900, being the fifty-ſecond year of his age, and was buried at Wincheſter.

After the death of Alfred, there was no formidable invaſion of the Danes, till the reign of Ethelred the ſecond, when they made ſeveral deſcents upon England. In the year 991, a large body of theſe invaders landed in Suffolk; but Ethelred, not being in a condition to oppoſe them, bought a peace of them for the ſum of 10,000 l. In 993, a large Daniſh fleet ſailed up the Humber, and routed an army which Ethelred ſent to oppoſe them; and the next year Sweyn, King of Denmark, and Olaf, King of Norway, invaded England. They ſailed up the Thames, and, after an unſucceſsful attempt upon London, plundered Kent, Hampſhire and Suſſex. As they threatned to over-run the kingdom in the ſame manner, Ethelred, who had neither conduct nor courage to oppoſe them, had recourſe to his former expedient, and gave them 16000 l.

on

on condition they left the kingdom. Upon this, the two Kings ſet ſail for their reſpective countries; but about three years afterwards, Sweyn returned, entered the Severn, and, landing an army, committed greater devaſtations than he had done before: he was at laſt, however, luckily called off, to aſſiſt Richard the ſecond, Duke of Normandy, againſt the King of France.

This accident gained England but a very ſhort remiſſion; for in the year 1001, the Danes returned, and again ravaged Wales, over-run Weſſex, reduced the city of Exeter, took poſſeſſion of the Iſle of Wight, Hampſhire and Dorſetſhire, and made continual incurſions into the neighbouring countries.

Ethelred, ſeeing his kingdom reduced to this miſerable ſituation, obeyed the dictates of his fears, and ſubmitted to pay 30,000 l. to thoſe invaders; a ſum which was raiſed by a tax, diſtinguiſhed by the name of Dane Geld; and upon this payment the greateſt part of them returned to their own country.

Ethelred, at length, by the advice of weak and wicked counſellors, reſolved upon a meaſure, which, in its conſequences, completed the ruin of England.

He privately ſent orders to all parts of the kingdom for a general maſſacre of the Danes, which orders were executed with ſuch horrid barbarity,

barbarity, that, upon the 13th of November, 1002, all the Danes were butchered by the vindictive Saxons, without diſtinction of age or ſex: this carnage was attended with circumſtances of the moſt ſavage cruelty, and Gunilda, ſiſter of Sweyn, King of Denmark, who was a Chriſtian, and married to a noble Dane, and by whoſe mediation the peace with her brother was effected, fell amongſt the reſt.

Sweyn was no ſooner informed of this bloody tragedy, then he ſolemnly vowed never to ſit down in peace, till he had revenged ſuch an horrible outrage, with the ruin of the Engliſh nation. Having, therefore, equipped a fleet of three hundred ſail, he landed in Cornwall, in the 1003, with a powerful army, marched to Exeter, and having put the inhabitants to the ſword, reduced it to aſhes: the following Spring he landed in Eaſt Anglia, and took and burnt Norwich and Thetford, and having engaged the Duke of Eaſt Anglia, entirely routed him. In 1005, a famine raging in England, Sweyn returned to Denmark for ſome neceſſary ſubſiſtence.

In the year 1009, two Daniſh fleets arrived in England, who ravaged Kent, and made themſelves maſters of the kingdoms of Eaſt Anglia and Weſſex. In 1012, they plundered and burnt the city of Canterbury, and put the inhabitants to the ſword; but they were at length bribed by King Ethelred, with 40,000l.

to

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CANUTE.

to go home with their booty. The next year, however, Sweyn returned with a formidable fleet, and, entering the Humber, made himſelf maſter of Northumberland, Eaſt Anglia, and all north of Watling-ſtreet.

Ethelred had ſhut himſelf up in London; and Sweyn, leaving his ſon Canute governor of the conquered country, was advancing to lay ſiege to it, of which Ethelred being informed, left the kingdom, and retired to Normandy with his family; and upon this the Londoners ſubmitted, and Sweyn was proclaimed King of England, without the leaſt oppoſition.

Sweyn dying in 1014, being the firſt year of his reign, the Danes proclaimed his ſon Canute King of England: the Engliſh, however, recalled Ethelred, who though he ſoon found himſelf at the head of a numerous army, made no better uſe of it than he had done before: but this weak and unhappy prince dying in the year 1016, the city of London proclaimed his eldeſt ſon Edmund, King of England.

London being the chief reſource of Edmund, Canute's firſt attempt was upon that city, which he beſieged three times without ſucceſs; but before the laſt of theſe ſieges, he engaged Edmund at Sherſton, in Wiltſhire, and was defeated. After that engagement four other pitched battles were fought with various ſucceſs, in which both Kings gave many ſignal proofs of great conduct and courage; but as theſe

theſe two great Princes were in ſight of one another, each at the head of his army drawn up in order of battle, and ready to engage, Edmund is ſaid to have propoſed, that he and and Canute, in order to prevent the effuſion of blood, ſhould decide the diſpute in a ſingle combat. To this propoſal Canute is ſaid to have replied, that if the buſineſs was only to manifeſt perſonal courage, he would willingly accept the challenge, but he apprehended it not prudent in him, who was a man of ſmall ſtature, to riſque his life and kingdom upon the iſſue of a ſingle combat, with a man of Edmund's robuſt perſon, and uncommon agility: however, that, as Edmund had expreſſed a deſire to ſpare the effuſion of blood, he was ready to open conferences on the ſubject, and leave the articles to the determination of the principal officers of both armies.

Edmund having embraced this propoſal, each ſide appointed an equal number of commiſſaries, who met in the Iſle of Alney, near the city of Gloceſter, and ſoon concluded a peace, by the partition of the kingdom. All the country ſouth of the Thames, together with the city of London, and part of the antient kingdom of Eſſex, was aſſigned to Edmund; and Mercia, Northumberland, and Eaſt Anglia, was allotted to Canute; but Edmund did not ſurvive this treaty above a month, having been baſely murdered, at the inſtigation of his

own brother-in-law Edrick, Duke of Mercia, in the year 1016.

Canute, who, before Edmund's death, was poſſeſſed of one half of England, now eaſily became maſter of the whole, by extorting the conſent of the nobles, who conſidered that, if they ſtood up for the title of Edmund's children, the war would be kindled afreſh. Canute was therefore proclaimed King of England, and having reigned ſole monarch of England and Denmark nineteen years, was ſucceeded by his ſon Harold, who leaving no iſſue, Hardicanute his half brother, who was related both to the Daniſh and Saxon Kings, ſucceeded to the throne: he is, however, reckoned the fourth Daniſh monarch of England: and was ſucceeded by Edward, ſurnamed the Confeſſor, the ſon of Ethelred, in whom the Saxon line was reſtored.

Upon the death of Edward the Confeſſor, in 1065, Harold, Earl of Kent, the eldeſt ſon of Godwin, a wealthy, popular, and powerful nobleman, ſtepped into the throne, under pretence that the Confeſſor, who, being married to his ſiſter, left no iſſue, had appointed him his ſucceſſor: but William, Duke of Normandy, making the like claim, prepared to invade England; and ſetting ſail from St. Valery, about the end of September, in the year 1066, after a ſhort paſſage, landed at Pevenſey, in Suſſex, without oppoſition. Here he built a fort; and having ſent his fleet back

to Normandy, that his followers might have no other reſource left them but their valour, he marched along the ſhore to Haſtings, where he ordered another fort to be built, and publiſhed a manifeſto, containing the motives that induced him to undertake this expedition.

Harold was at this juncture employed in the north, whither he marched at the head of a Royal army, to check the progreſs of Harfager, King of Norway, who invaded England to make a diverſion in favour of the Duke of Normandy.

The King of England having engaged the the Norwegians at Stamford-bridge, ſince called Battle-bridge, on the river Derwent, entirely routed them, with the loſs of Harfager their King, took a great many of their ſhips, and recovered all the booty they had gained.

Harold was in the city of York, when he received the news of the Norman invaſion; and aſſembling all his forces, advanced againſt the Normans, and encamped within ſeven miles of Haſtings, where they were ſtill poſted. Duke William, perceiving that Harold was determined to give him battle, advanced a little way forward to a more commodious piece of ground, that he might draw up his army to a greater advantage. The Engliſh, who ſeemed confident of ſucceſs, ſpent the night, before they engaged, in ſinging and carouſing,

rouſing, while the Normans were employed in prayer and preparations for the battle. Next day, being the 14th of October, and Harold's birth day, the battle began with great fury and equal bravery, on both ſides. The Engliſh were at firſt very much annoyed with the Norman long bows, a ſort of weapons they had not been uſed to, which threw them into ſome diſorder; but recovering themſelves, they gave the Normans ſo warm a reception, that they were forced to retire a little, to take breadth: however, they repeated the attack; but could make no impreſſion on the Engliſh ranks, which continued impenetrable, till the Duke put in practice a ſtratagem, to which his army had been regularly trained: he ordered a retreat to be ſounded, and immediately his lines gave way, with ſuch appearance of confuſion, that the Engliſh, believing them routed, forſook their ranks, and purſued them with great impetuoſity and diſorder; which the Duke perceiving, ordered a ſignal to be made for charging the enemy afreſh; upon this the Normans, cloſing their ranks again, fell on the diſordered Engliſh, and made a terrible ſlaughter of them. Harold did all a general could do to rally his forces, and ſo far ſucceeded as to draw up, on a riſing ground, a good body of foot, which the Normans attacked, but were repulſed. The Duke, however, perceiving the night approaching, and unwilling to leave the battle, which laſted from ſeven in the morning, undecided, made another deſperate effort to diſlodge the Engliſh.

In this fatal attack, Harold was ſlain, by an arrow that pierced his ſkull; upon which his troops, perceiving their gallant leader fall, immediately fled with the utmoſt precipitation, and the Norman horſe purſuing them, as long as they had day light, made a terrible ſlaughter of them.

In this important battle, the Normans loſt 6000 men, and the Engliſh an incredible number, among whom were Garth and Lewin, the King's brothers, whoſe bodies, together with the King's, being found on the field the next day, were, by the Conqueror's orders, ſent to their mother, who buried them in Waltham Abbey, * which Harold had founded. Thus fell the gallant Harold in defence of Engliſh liberty, after a ſhort and turbulent reign of nine months and nine days.

His death put an end to the dominion of the Anglo Saxons in this iſland, after it had continued above ſix hundred years ſince the reign of Hengiſt; and from William the Conqueror, England received a new race of monarchs, which either, in the male or female line, has continued ever ſince.

Having thus given a brief view of the moſt conſiderable revolutions in South Britain, to the moſt intereſting period in the Engliſh hiſtory, it may be now proper to trace the moſt extraordinary revolutions, independant of thoſe in

* See Vol. II. p. 165.

in South Britain, which are recorded to have happened in North Britain, down to the ſame period.

As early as the time of the Romans in this iſland, the inhabitants of North Britain were diſtinguiſhed into Picts and Scots, who, as well as the original inhabitants of South Britain and Ireland, were originally Celts. The Picts were the firſt inhabitants of North Britain, and were probably of the ſame tribe of Celts, who firſt poſſeſſed themſelves of the iſland, and whoſe deſcendants inhabit Wales to this day.

They were either ſuch Britons as inhabited the north part of the iſland, before the Roman invaſion, or ſuch as were driven out of the ſouth by the Roman arms. They were called Picts by the Romans, from the cuſtom of painting their bodies, which they ſtill retained, after their brethren of South Britain had long adopted the dreſs and cuſtoms of the Romans, which thoſe people introduced among them, upon reducing the ſouth part of the iſland into a Roman province.

The original Scots, whoſe deſcendants inhabit great part of Ireland, and the Highlands of Scotland, at this day, were ſuch Celts as arrived later in the iſland; but whether they arrived originally in North Britain from Ireland, or peopled Ireland from North Britain, is a point upon which hiſtorians are not agreed; however, both the Picts and Scots, and what-

ever other nations inhabited the north part of Britain, were frequently comprehended by the Romans under the name of Caledonians.

Agricola was the firſt Roman general, who penetrated into North Britain, by defeating Galgacus, under whom the Britons made their laſt effort againſt the Romans. Agricola, having ſurrounded Britain with his fleet, and made a full diſcovery of the whole iſland, according to ſome writers, built a line of forts from the Frith of Forth to that of Clyde, to protect the Roman province, from the incurſions of the Caledonians.

There are no accounts of the tranſactions in North Britain, from the time of Agricola to that of Adrian, who, upon the Caledonians breaking in upon the Roman province, built a wall from Solway Frith, to the mouth of the river Tyne. Lolius Urbicus, in the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, extended the Roman pale as far as the boundary, ſaid to have been raiſed by Agricola; and the Emperor Marcus Aurelius carried on a war againſt the Caledonians, by his lieutenant Calphurnius Agricola, in the year 162. The Emperor Severus penetrated to the northern extremity of Britain, and obliged the Caledonians to give him hoſtages of their fidelity; and he is thought by many writers to have built the Picts wall already mentioned.

The

The Saxons poſſeſſed themſelves of great part of Scotland, and the preſent Scots, as diſtinct from the Highlanders, are deſcended from the Saxons.

About the year 840, a war broke out between the Scots and Picts, which, according to the Scotiſh hiſtorians, terminated in the extirpation of the Pictiſh nation. This people had routed the Scots under their King, Alpin, and treated the dead body of that dead prince with great indignity.

Kenneth, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Alpin, was ſo exaſperated at this circumſtance, that his kingdom no ſooner recovered the loſs it had ſuſtained in the battle with the Picts, than he marched againſt the enemy, being reinforced with a body of Northumbrians; and having obtained a complete victory, he is ſaid to have ordered all the men able to carry arms to be put to the ſword, and the reſt of that devoted nation to be expelled the iſland. That the Picts were totally ſubdued, and their kingdom ſeized by the conqueror, is not to be doubted: but that they were utterly exterminated, is a circumſtance not generally believed by hiſtorians.

The Danes, in their many expeditions to Britain, frequently invaded Scotland; and Malcolm the ſecond of Scotland fought many a

battle with them, and at length forced them to quit the kingdom.

In the reign of Donald, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Malcolm, the Danes invaded Scotland once more, upon which the King conferred the command of his army upon his couſin Macbeth, who fought ſeveral battles with the Danes; but not being able to drive them out of the country by pure force, the Scots found means to poiſon the proviſions for the Daniſh army with nightſhade, by which ſtratagem they deſtroyed the whole Daniſh army. Soon after that, another army, commanded by King Canute, landed in Fifeſhire, and plundered the the country, but were defeated by Macbeth, who finding himſelf grown extremely popular, by his victory over the Danes, began to aſpire to the crown. To this end, he repreſented his couſin Donald as an indolent, inactive Prince, unfit to govern ſo brave a nation.

He appears to have been encouraged in his ambitious projects by ſome pretended Witches, or Fortune-tellers, who aſſured him, that he ſhould live to be King of Scotland. Elevated with ſuch hopes, Macbeth imparted his deſigns upon the crown to ſuch perſons as he could confide in; and, among the reſt, to Bancho, a man of great power and influence in the kingdom; having, therefore, concerted meaſures with Bancho, to aſſaſſinate the King, they laid in ambuſcade for him, and having murdered him, Macbeth was proclaimed

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WILLIAM the CONQUEROR

claimed and crowned King of Scotland; upon which Malcolm, the late King's eldeſt ſon, fled to England.

Some time afterwards, Macduff, the Thane, or Earl, of Fife, went to England, where he prevailed on Malcolm to attempt the recovery of his father's throne, aſſuring him, Macbeth was ſuch a cruel tyrant, that he was hated by the whole nation, who were ready to join him whenever he [illegible] himſelf to them. Edward the Confeſſor, [illegible] then upon the throne of England, aſſiſted the exiled Prince with 10,000 men; and Malcolm was no ſooner arrived in Scotland, than Macbeth's army deſerted him, and he [illegible] made his eſcape to the weſtern iſles; upon which Malcolm was immediately proclaimed King of Scotland, in the year 1057.

Theſe are the moſt remarkable authentic tranſactions recorded in the hiſtory of Scotland, down to the time of the conqueſt of England, by William Duke of Normandy.

William being proclaimed and crowned King of England, uſed the Engliſh in the beginning of his reign with ſome humanity: but finding them diſguſted at his rewarding his Norman adventurers with Engliſh eſtates, and engaged in continual plots to dethrone him, in order to make way for Edgar Atheling, the juſt heir to the crown, he treated the Engliſh with the greateſt cruelty, put many thouſands of

of them to death, deſtroyed the north of England with fire and ſword, and diſpoſed of all the lands in the kingdom among his Norman followers; ſo that before his death, there was not an Engliſh ſubject poſſeſſed of an eſtate in his own right.

Neglecting the Saxon laws, he introduced the laws and cuſtoms of Normandy, as well as the Norman language, and ordered all pleadings to be in French; and ſo apprehenſive was he of inſurrections among the Engliſh, that he obliged them to put out their fires and lights, at eight o'clock every evening.

During theſe troubles, ſeveral Engliſh lords prevailed upon Prince Edgar Atheling, with his mother and ſiſters, to retire into Scotland, where they were received with every mark of reſpect, by Malcolm King of Scotland, who married Margaret, Edgar's eldeſt ſiſter, from whom deſcended Matilda, grandmother of King Henry the ſecond, in whom the Royal families of the Saxons and Normans were united.

In the mean time Malcolm invaded the north of England, which he ravaged in a cruel manner: but William marching againſt him, a treaty of peace was concluded on; for the performance of which, hoſtages were given by Malcolm, who likewiſe did homage for his poſſeſſions in Cumberland, in the year 1071.

One

One of the laſt memorable acts of William's life was his ordering a general ſurvey to be made of all the lands in England, and taking an account of the villains, ſlaves, and cattle upon each eſtate; which was recorded in a book called Dooms-day book, preſerved to this day in the Exchequer.

William dying in 1087, being the ſixty-firſt year of his age, was buried at Caen in Normandy, and was ſucceeded, in the throne of England, by his ſecond ſon William, ſurnamed Rufus, his eldeſt ſon Robert ſucceeding to the Dutchy of Normandy

William Rufus no ſooner mounted the throne of England, than his eldeſt brother, Robert, laying claim to the crown, a new war broke out between them, which terminated in a treaty, wherein it was agreed, that each ſhould retain what he had then in poſſeſſion; and that the ſurvivor ſhould ſucceed both to the kingdom and the dutchy. Soon after this Malcolm King of Scotland made an incurſion into Northumberland, upon which William marched againſt him; but Malcolm, fearing the bad conſequences of a war in Scotland, ſent William terms of an accomodation, which were readily accepted.

In the year 1094, we find William at war with his brother Robert in Normandy; and the next year he marched againſt the Welch, who ravaged Shropſhire and Cheſhire; but the Welch retreating before him to the mountains, William returned, after he had rebuilt the caſtle of Montgomery.

On the 2d of Auguſt, in the year 1100, as the King was hunting in New Foreſt, in Hampſhire, he was wounded with an arrow, ſuppoſed to have been levelled at a ſtag, by Walter Tyrrel, a French knight, of which wound he died in the 44th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was buried at Wincheſter.

Had Duke Robert been in Normandy when William died, he would in all probability have mounted the Engliſh throne without oppoſition, according to the treaty concluded on between the two brothers, and ratified by the principal noblemen of both countries: but Robert being gone to the Holy Land upon the Cruſado, and not yet returned, his brother Henry, the Conqueror's youngeſt ſon, immediately mounted the throne, and ſo effectually diſtributed the treaſure the late King had amaſſed by his extortions, that he was generally recogniſed. To ingratiate himſelf further with his ſubjects, he permitted them the uſe of fire and candle in the night; and what was ſtill more popular, he conſented to reſtore the laws

laws of Edward the Confeſſor, whereby his barons, who were all Normans, were entitled to hold their eſtates on the ſame advantageous terms the Saxons their predeceſſors had enjoyed them. They had their lives and fortunes ſecured to them by law; whereas, ever ſince the Norman conqueſt, the lives and fortunes of the ſubjects were entirely at the diſpoſal of the Prince; and to gain the affections of the Engliſh ſtill more, he married Matilda, daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland, by Margaret ſiſter to Edgar Atheling; by which match the Royal family of the Saxons were united with that of the Normans: but all theſe prudent meaſures did not ſecure Henry from danger and trouble; for Duke Robert, being returned to Normandy, aſſembled an army, and invaded England: however, coming to a treaty with his brother King Henry, it was agreed, that Henry ſhould enjoy the kingdom for life, paying Robert the annual ſum of 3000 marks; and that the ſurvivor ſhould ſucceed to both the kingdom and the dutchy.

A war, however, ſoon broke out between the two brothers; and Henry invading Normandy, took Duke Robert priſoner, and abſolutely ſubdued the Dutchy: but after all theſe ſucceſſes, a melancholy accident happened, which greatly affected the King: for his eldeſt ſon, Prince William, returning from Normandy, with a numerous retinue of young nobility to grace his paſſage, was unfortunately caſt away, by the ſhip ſtriking upon a

rock, and drowned, together with his whole company, amounting to 150 perſons; among whom, beſides the prince, were Richard his natural brother, Matilda, his natural ſiſter, Counteſs of Perch, Lucia the King's niece, and the Earl of Cheſter. By this misfortune, Henry had only one daughter left, named Matilda, or Maud, who was married to the Emperor, Henry the fourth, and afterwards to Jeffery Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou, by whom ſhe had a ſon named Henry, afterwards King of England; and his Queen Matilda being dead a few years before, in hopes of further iſſue, he married Adelais, daughter of Jeffery, Earl of Lovain; but that lady never proving with child, he appointed his daughter, the Empreſs Maud, his ſucceſſor, and made his ſubjects ſwear allegiance to her.

In the year 1134, Duke Robert, the King's eldeſt brother, died a priſoner in Cardiff caſtle, in Wales: and the year following the King died in Normandy of a ſurfeit, in the 68th year of his age, and the 36th of his reign. His body, being embalmed, was brought over to England, and buried in the abbey of Reading, in Berkſhire, which he himſelf had founded.

The male line of the Normans expired in Henry the firſt, who took all the precautions in his power to ſecure the ſucceſſion to his daughter: yet Stephen, Earl of Buloign, ſon to the Earl of Blois, by Adela, the Conqueror's fourth daughter, found means to get the crown

crown placed upon his own head, while the Empreſs Maud was in France: but the Empreſs coming over, and claiming the crown, a moſt furious and bloody civil war broke out, which ſoon ſpread over every part of the nation, and continued almoſt throughout the whole of Stephen's reign.

In 1137, the Welch made an irruption upon the frontiers of England, and carried off a conſiderable booty; and in a battle near Cardigan, the King's troops were defeated, and above three thouſand left dead upon the ſpot. At the ſame time, the Empreſs Maud was proclaimed by her uncle David King of Scotland, who invaded the north of England, and advanced as far as Durham; but Stephen marching with a very numerous army to ſtop his progreſs, the war ſoon ended in a treaty of peace. The war between England and Scotland, however, ſoon broke out afreſh: for the Scotch monarch taking advantage of the diſturbances in England, began to renew his incurſions: but this difference alſo was ſoon accommodated in a treaty, by which Henry, the ſon of the King of Scotland, was put in poſſeſſion of the county of Northumberland, and earldom of Huntingdon, for which he did homage to the King of England; and David obliged himſelf, by oath, never to meddle any more in the quarrel between Stephen and Maud.

Robert, Earl of Gloceſter, natural brother to the Empreſs, was at the head of the diſcontented Barons, who revolted, becauſe the King had not rewarded them as they thought he ſhould have done, for placing him on the throne: but the King acquitted himſelf with ſuch reſolution and dexterity, that he cruſhed this inſurrection for the preſent. The biſhops, however, preſuming upon the obligations the King lay under to them for the crown, extended their power to ſuch a degree, amaſſed ſuch immenſe wealth, and became ſo exceſſively proud and haughty, that the King growing jealous of their power, reſolved to humble them, and took ſuch vigorous meaſures for that end, that he ſeized the caſtles and treaſures of thoſe who had rendered themſelves moſt obnoxious.

This brought almoſt the whole clergy upon his back, and even his own brother, the biſhop of Wincheſter, who revolted againſt him, under pretence of ſtanding up for the rights and privileges of the church. By theſe means a ſtorm was raiſed, which, with ſome intermiſſions, continued for ſeveral years.

The faction daily gathered new ſtrength, and the people generally in every part deſerted the King, and declared for the Empreſs.

At this favourable juncture the Empreſs came over with her brother the Earl of Gloceſter,

ceſter, in the year 1139, from which time a cruel civil war broke out, during which King Stephen behaved with great reſolution, intrepidity, firmneſs and conſtancy of mind; by which he at length weathered the ſtorm; and it was agreed, in the year 1154, that Stephen ſhould enjoy the crown for life, and that Henry, the ſon of the Empreſs, ſhould ſucceed him.

Upon the 25th of October, in the ſame year, Stephen died in the fiftieth year of his age, and was buried in the abbey of Feverſham, which he founded, by his Queen Maud, only daughter and heir to the Earl of Boulogne, by whom he left a ſon named William, and a daughter called Maria.

Upon Stephen's death, Henry ſucceeded to the crown, without oppoſition; and was crowned at Weſtminſter on the 19th of December 1154; being then in the twenty third year of his age. He was the firſt of the race of the Plantagenets, and had been ſome time Duke of Normandy, which dutchy his mother delivered up to him; beſides, he was Earl of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine, after his father's death.

This Prince, ſoon after his acceſſion, reſumed the grants of the crown lands, which King Stephe had made, but confirmed the priviledges granted by his grand father Henry.

Having projected the conqueſt of Ireland, he obtained a bull for that purpoſe from Pope Adrian the fourth, on condition that he would pay the Pope and his ſucceſſors one penny a year for every houſe in Ireland. In 1172, the King found a fair opportunity for putting this project into execution; for Dermouth, King of Leinſter, being at variance with the other petty Kings of Ireland, and in danger of being over-powered by them, applied to King Henry for his aſſiſtance, who, glad of the opportunity of interpoſing in the affairs of Ireland, readily complied with this requeſt; but as he was then engaged in a war with France, which would not permit him to lend Dermouth immediate ſuccours, he adviſed him to apply to ſome Engliſh barons, for what ſuccours they could afford him. He, therefore, got Robert Fitz-Stephen, and Richard Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, to enter into an alliance with him, on certain conditions.

Fitz-Stephen firſt accompanied Dermouth into Ireland with 400 men, and the Earl of Pembroke followed with 1200 men; and with this handful of men had ſuch ſucceſs, that they extended their conqueſts with great rapidity, and ſpread the terror of their arms all over Ireland.

Soon after this, Henry himſelf went over with a formidable army, and landed at Waterford; upon which the Iriſh voluntarily ſubmitted,

mitted, and Henry became maſter of Ireland without ſtriking a blow; all the petty Kings of the iſland coming to Waterford, and ſtriving which ſhould firſt ſwear fealty to him. Then going to Dublin, and leaving Hugh Lacy there to govern the iſland in his name, with the title of Grand Juſticiary of Ireland, he ſet out for England.

But here it will be proper to exhibit a brief view of the moſt remarkable revolutions recorded in the hiſtory of Ireland, down to this period, when the iſland was ſubjected to the crown of England; after which, the hiſtory of Ireland became of courſe included in that of England.

That the firſt inhabitants of Ireland were colonies from Great Britain, ſcarce admits of a doubt, not only on account of the vicinity of the two iſlands, but on account of the ſtrong ſimilarity between the language and cuſtoms of the antient Britons and Iriſh.

The writers of antiquity have conſidered Ireland as one of the Britiſh iſles, and Ptolemy calls ſeveral tribes of people in Ireland by the ſame names that diſtinguiſhed other tribes in Britain. The firſt colony that aſſumed the regal title in Ireland, according to the hiſtory of that iſland, were called *Firbolgs*, which is ſuppoſed to have been a corruption of *Viri Belgæ*, or *Belgians*, who are with great probability ſuppoſed to have come from the Belgæ of Britain.

This

This people are ſuppoſed to have ſettled in Ireland about the year of the world 2657, and to have poſſeſſed the country, during the reigns of nine Kings, to the year 2737, when they were diſpoſſeſſed by a colony from Britain, called Tuath-de-Danans, or Danonians: this people are alſo ſaid to have governed Ireland during the reigns of nine Kings, to the year of the world 2934, when a great revolution was brought about by a colony from Spain called Mileſians, who, having conquered the Danonians, governed the iſland for the ſpace of 2187 years, and during the reign of 166 Kings, to the year of Chriſt 1172, when the Iriſh ſubmitted to Henry the ſecond of England.

The goſpel was firſt preached in Ireland about the year 400, and in 432, St. Patrick arrived in that iſland; and having converted moſt part of the nation to the Chriſtian faith, died in the year 493.

In the year 684, Egfrid, King of Northumberland, ſent an army into Ireland, under the conduct of Bertfrid, who ravaged the country with fire and ſword, but was at length obliged to return home in diſgrace, with only the ſhattered remains of his army. In the year 795, Ireland was invaded by the Danes and Norwegians, who, after many battles, attended with various ſucceſſes, fixed themſelves in many parts of the iſland, where they continued to harraſs the inhabitants till the Engliſh arrived in the time of Henry the ſecond.

About

About the year 964 Edgar King of England is ſaid to have ſubdued a great part of Ireland, together with the city of Dublin; and in 1014, a bloody battle was fought between Bryan Boro, King of Ireland, and Sitrick, a Dane, King of Dublin, in which Bryan obtained a complete victory. In 1066, Godred, King of Man, conquered Dublin, and a great part of the province of Leinſter; and in 1114, Magnus, King of Norway, having invaded Ireland, was ſurrounded and cut off, with moſt of his followers.

Theſe are the moſt remarkable tranſactions recorded in the hiſtory of Ireland, till it was conquered by King Henry the ſecond of England.

But to return to Henry. Soon after the conqueſt of Ireland, a conſpiracy was formed againſt him by his Queen Eleanor, and his ſons Henry, Richard and Geoffrey: the Queen was moved to this meaſure, from her jealouſy, on account of his familiarity with Roſamond Clifford, daughter to Lord Clifford, the King's favourite miſtreſs: the Kings of France and Scotland joined in this confederacy, and Henry being defeated, he died of a broken heart, on the 6th of July 1189, in the ſixty-firſt year of his age, and the 35th of his reign, and was buried in the nunnery of Fonteverard, which he had founded.

Henry

Henry the ſecond was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſurviving ſon Richard, who was crowned at Weſtminſter by Baldwin, archbiſhop of Canterbury, the 3d of September 1189. The day preceding the coronation, there was a dreadful maſſacre of the Jews in the city of London: public intimation had been given to them not to appear at the ceremony of the coronation; notwithſtanding which, many endeavouring to ſatisfy their curioſity, attempted to get into the abbey church of St. Peter, at Weſtminſter, where the ceremony was to be performed; but being repulſed by his Majeſty's domeſtics, a rumour was ſpread that the King had given orders for cutting off all the Jews in his dominions; upon which the mob immediately murdered all preſent, and then haſtening to the city, maſſacred all they could find there, and afterwards plundered and burnt their houſes. The principal actors, however, of theſe horrid barbarities were ſeized the next day, and immediately hanged.

The cruel example of the Londoners was followed by ſeveral other great towns in England. At York 500 Jews, beſides women and children, having fled into the caſtle, to avoid the fury of the rabble, the high ſheriff went to require them to deliver it up; and upon their refuſal, the mob advanced in a body to attack the caſtle; upon which the Jews offered a large ſum of money to be permitted to go off with their lives; and upon their being refuſ-

ed

ed quarter, it is ſaid, that every maſter of a family cut the throats of his wife and children firſt, then diſpatched his ſervants, and finiſhed this horrid tragedy by the murder of himſelf.

A new Cruſado for the recovery of Jeruſalem from the Infidels, being reſolved on, King Richard engaged to go to the Holy Land with the King of France. He conquered the iſland of Cyprus, and took the city of Acon, in Paleſtine: but was taken priſoner on his return home, by the Duke of Auſtria, and ranſomed by an immenſe ſum of money: but being mortally wounded before the caſtle of Chalons in France, he died on the 6th of April 1199, in the forty-third year of his age, and was buried at the feet of his father in the nunnery of Fonteverard.

Richard having made a will in favour of his youngeſt brother John, to the prejudice of Arthur, the ſon of Geoffry the eldeſt brother, occaſioned ſome confuſion about the ſucceſſion: but John found means to have himſelf proclaimed King of England, and was crowned upon the twenty-eighth day of May, in the year 1199, being the 32d year of his age.

His whole reign, however, was nothing but a ſeries of misfortunes. Philip King of France, Pope Innocent the third, and his own barons, in their turns, cut out ſo much work for him,

him, as rendered him unhappy ſo long as he lived.

The pretenſions of his nephew, young Arthur, the apprehenſions of his being favoured by the King of France, and the general good diſpoſition of the people towards him, created John a great deal of trouble. All the Lords of Poictou, Touraine, Maine and Anjou, had reſolved to acknowledge Arthur for their ſovereign Prince.

Arthur's mother put herſelf and ſon under the protection of the King of France, and delivered up to him the principal places ſhe was poſſeſſed of, to hold them in the name of Arthur.

John having at length got that Prince into his hands, had him privately murdered, by which he incurred much odium and infamy; and his bad government at home, together with the ill management of his affairs abroad, occaſioned much diſcontent among his ſubjects.

In the mean time, John led an army into Ireland againſt the King of Connaught, who had raiſed ſome diſturbances in that iſland. At Dublin he received the homage of thirty petty princes; after which, having taken the King of Connaught priſoner, an end was put to this commotion, and the whole iſland was reduced in obedience to the King, who, before

fore he left it, ordered the laws and cuſtoms of England to be eſtabliſhed in Ireland.

John having embroiled himſelf with his clergy, they complained to the Pope, who laid the kingdom under an interdict, and at length abſolved all the King's ſubjects from their allegiance to him, ſolemnly depoſed him, and empowered the King of France to put the ſentence in execution, promiſing him the remiſſion of all his ſins, together with the crown of England, as ſoon as he ſhould have dethroned the tyrant. But John, in the year 1213, conſenting to become the Pope's vaſſal, and to pay him an annual tribute, the Pope abſolved him, and at length took part with him againſt his barons, who had entered into a confederacy, inſiſted upon the re-eſtabliſhment of their liberties, and the reſtoration of the Saxon laws of King Edward the Confeſſor, and at laſt compelled the King to ſign two charters, one called the Charter of Liberties, or the Great Charter, and commonly Magna Charta, and the other called the Charter of the Foreſts, which have ever ſince been looked upon as the baſis of Engliſh liberties. The King, however, having ſoon repented the grants he had made, raiſed an army of foreigners to puniſh the barons, who, finding themſelves not ſtrong enough to take the field againſt him, invited over Lewis, ſon to the King of France, promiſing to place the crown on his head, if he would come with a force ſufficient to reſcue them from the tyranny of John. In conſequence of this invi-

tation, Prince Lewis landed in England, with a numerous army, on the 21ſt of May 1216, and making himſelf maſter of Kent, all except Dover caſtle, he marched to London, where the barons and citizens took the oath of allegiance to him. From this time, he acted in every reſpect as a ſovereign, and ſoon became maſter of the greateſt part of England.

In the mean time, John was in perpetual motion, marching from place to place, but avoided coming to a battle. At length his grief and vexations threw him into a fever, which carried him off at Newark, on the 18th of October 1216, in the 51ſt year of his age, and the 11th of his reign; he was buried in the cathedral church of Worceſter.

Henry, the eldeſt ſon of John, was but in the tenth year of his age, when his father died: however the lords who conſtantly adhered to his father had him proclaimed king, by the name of Henry the Third, and he was crowned at Gloceſter, upon the twenty-eighth day of October, after which William Marſhall, Earl of Pembroke, was choſen guardian to the king, and regent of the kingdom. Letters were ſent to all the barons and corporations, acquainting them with Henry's acceſſion, and promiſing great rewards to all ſuch as would return to their duty: upon this, many of the confederate barons began to think of making their peace with the new king, towards which the excommunication of Prince Lewis by the Pope

Pope, not a little contributed. Lewis having gone over to France for freth forces, many of the barons quitted his party, and made their peace with King Henry, and on the 19th of May 1217, the regent and Prince Lewis came to a battle near the city of Lincoln, in which the French army was totally routed.

About the end of Auguſt following, the fleet of the Cinque Ports attacked the French fleet, coming over with a body of troops to the aſſiſtance of Prince Lewis, and took or deſtroyed the greateſt part of them: by this loſs Lewis and his army were reduced ſo low as to be blocked up in London, which ſituation obliged him to ſue for peace, and on the 11th of September a treaty was concluded on, in which Lewis renounced all manner of pretenſions to England; and ſoon afterwards he ſet ſail for France, leaving Henry in full poſſeſſion of the kingdom. After this, Henry reſumed the crown lands, and cancelled the great charter; upon which a rebellion being formed againſt him by the barons, he was taken priſoner, and compelled to delegate his power to twenty-four lords; but he was reſcued by his ſon Prince Edward, and reſtored. He died on the 16th of November 1272, and was buried in the Abbey church of Weſtminſter.

Henry the Third was ſucceeded by his ſon Edward the Firſt, who at his father's death was on his return from the Holy land, where he had been upon a cruſado. He was crown-

ed, Auguſt the 19, 1272, ſoon after his arrival, with Eleanor his queen, who had attended him in his expedition. Edward's thoughts had been for ſome time bent upon chaſtiſing Lewellyn, Prince of Wales, who, having been ſummoned ſeveral times to do homage for his country, as his father and grandfather had done to Henry the Third, refuſed to appear. The king therefore marched with a great army into Wales, and drove the inhabitants to the mountains. His fleet at the ſame time, attacked and took the iſle of Angleſea. This rapid progreſs of Edward's arms diſpoſed Lewellyn to ſue for a peace, which he obtained.

In 1279, the Earldom of Ponthieu and Montrevil fell to Edward in right of his Queen, upon the death of the Queen of Caſtile her mother; but to obtain the inveſtiture of this earldom from the King of France, he was forced to renounce all claim to Anjou and Normandy, as King Henry his father had done.

Lewellyn having revolted, at the inſtigation of his brother David, committed great ravages on the borders, and ſurprized and defeated the King's generals, who were ſent againſt him; but Edward marching with a numerous army into Wales, totally routed Lewellyn's forces, in a bloody battle, in which Lewellyn himſelf was killed; and the king ordered his head, crowned with ivy, to be expoſed to view on the walls of the tower of London. David his

his brother alſo fell into the hands of the Engliſh, and, being the laſt of his race, was cruelly put to death, as a traitor; his head fixed up with his brother's, and one of his four quarters ſent to York, Briſtol, Northampton, and Wincheſter. It is ſaid, that the Welch being ſtill uneaſy for want of a prince of their own, Edward purpoſed to give them for their prince the ſon whom he hoped his queen, who was then with child, ſhould be delivered of; that with this view, he ordered it ſo, that ſhe ſhould lie in at Caernarvon, where ſhe was brought to bed of a prince, named Edward; and that immediately thereupon, he convened the ſtates of Wales, and told them he would give them a prince born among them, who could not ſpeak a word of Engliſh; and then named to them his ſon, juſt born at Caernarvon; and from that time the King of England's eldeſt ſon has been always Prince of Wales.

Upon the death of Alexander the Third, King of Scotland, Edward began to project the union of Scotland with England. With this view, he got his ſon prince Edward married to Margaret, Queen of Scotland, the granddaughter of Alexander, and the laſt of his race: but ſhe dying ſoun after, great diſputes aroſe in Scotland about the ſucceſſion, and ſeveral powerful men laid claim to the crown. Among the claimants the principal were John Baliol and Robert Bruce, who, to avoid a civil war, choſe the King of England

arbitrator of their differences: but before he would proceed to a deciſion, Edward declared, that he acted in this affair as ſovereign lord of all Scotland, and required the ſtates to own him as ſuch, which though they never expreſly did, yet as they made no direct oppoſition to his pretenſions, he took it for granted. But being owned as ſovereign lord by the two claimants, he was put in poſſeſſion of the kingdom, that he might be able to deliver it up to the perſon that ſhould be declared king. Then having heard the pretenſions of the claimants, he thought fit to declare in favour of Baliol, who ſwore fealty and did homage to King Edward.

Edward was no ſooner poſſeſſed of the ſovereignty of Scotland than he carried his prerogative to the utmoſt height, to the great mortification of the Scots, and their new king, who, upon very trifling occaſions, was ſummoned to appear before King Edward, whereever he happened to be. Baliol, finding himſelf treated rather more in the manner of a ſlave than a vaſſal, began to concert meaſures for throwing off the Engliſh yoke, which was become intolerable to him. A favourable opportunity ſeemed to offer; for a war breaking out between France and England, the King of Scotland entered into an alliance with Philip of France, and prevailed upon the Pope to abſolve him from his oath of fealty to King Edward. Then he ſent a letter to King Edward, renouncing the homage he paid him; upon

upon which the King of England, in 1296, marched into Scotland with a powerful army, and reſolved to make a conqueſt of that kingdom. Having gained over Robert Bruce to his intereſt, by promiſing him the crown, in caſe he declared war upon Baliol, Edward took Berwick by ſtratagem, and as he was marching to beſiege Dunbar, was met by Baliol. Upon this a terrible battle enſued, in which the Scots were defeated, with the loſs of above twenty thouſand men: after this battle, Edward took the moſt important places in Scotland, and being, by theſe means, become maſter of all the kingdom, the inhabitants ſubmitted, and Baliol came and reſigned his crown to him, to be diſpoſed of as he ſhould think fit. Edward gave orders for burning the records of Scotland, placed Engliſh garriſons and governors in all the caſtles, and returned to London, carrying with him the crown, ſceptre, and the reſt of the regalia of that kingdom.

Edward, having gone over to Flanders on account of the war with France, ſoon received intelligence, that the Scots, under the conduct of William Wallace, had driven the Engliſh out of all the ſtrong places in Scotland, and recovered the kingdom, of which Wallace was declared regent by the army: upon this news the king returned to England; and putting himſelf at the head of a numerous army, marched into the heart of Scotland, and meeting the enemy at Falkirk, totally routed them, in

in 1298, and recovered the places he had loſt: the year following, the Scots made another effort for throwing off the Engliſh yoke, and taking arms under the conduct of Comyn the regent, drove the Engliſh once more out of Scotland; at which Edward being exaſperated, marched a third time into that kingdom, in the year 1300, and entirely routed the Scotch army, which conſiſted chiefly of an undiſciplined militia. Edward however, at the requeſt of the King of France, granted the Scots a truce of a few months: but as the truce was nearly expired, he ſent an army into Scotland, under Segrave, to renew the war, which army was divided into three bodies, the more effectually to deſtroy the country: but the Scots falling upon them, routed them all three in one day.

Edward, having concluded a peace with France, in 1303, found himſelf at liberty to act as he pleaſed againſt the Scots; and therefore entered Scotland a fourth time, with ſo powerful an army, that he met with no reſiſtance, and marched to the utmoſt extremity of the iſland north, laying waſte the country on all ſides. The Scots, though often ſubdued, could not ſit eaſy under the yoke. Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, ſon to Robert the competitor for the crown, who was now dead, and to whom Edward had not performed his promiſe of making him king, collected an army, and was crowned King of Scotland: but King Edward

ward ſending the Earl of Pembroke againſt him, he was twice defeated, and forced to retire to one of the weſtern iſlands, there to wait a more favourable conjuncture.

Soon afterwards Edward followed the Earl Pembroke into Scotland with a numerous army, and cruelly puniſhed the friends and adherents of Bruce, beheading three of the king's brothers, hanging ſeveral great men, and ſcarce pardoning any that fell into his hands.

Edward, returning into England, left the Earl of Pembroke his lieutenant in Scotland. In the mean time, Bruce having drawn together a good number of troops, attacked the Earl of Pembroke, and obtained a ſignal victory, taking the Earl priſoner, recovering ſeveral ſtrong places, and gaining many other advantages; at which Edward was ſo exaſperated againſt the Scots, that he reſolved to deſtroy them without mercy; but heaven prevented him, for being ſcarce come to Carliſle, where he had one of the fineſt armies in the world, he was taken ill, and died, the 7th of July 1307, in the ſixty-eighth year of his age, and thirty-fifth of his reign, and was buried in the Abbey-church of Weſtminſter.

Edward the Second, ſurnamed of Caernarvon, from the place of his birth, was about two and twenty years old when his father died, and was crowned February the 24th, 1308.

The

The barons compelled him to baniſh his favourite Piers Gaveſton, whom they afterwards beheaded, and to delegate his power to certain lords; and while England was weakened by ſuch inteſtine commotions, King Robert Bruce, having ſuppreſſed the ſeveral factions in his kingdom, and brought all his ſubjects to unite in throwing off the Engliſh yoke, happily ſucceeded. Edward, immediately after his father's death, marched as far as Dumfries, and ſtruck a terror into the whole nation: but upon his return to England the Scots, under the command of their king Robert, attacked his army commanded by John Comin, a Scotch lord, and entirely routed it. Upon this news, Edward, in 1308, marched a great army into Scotland; but was ſoon forced to return for want of ſubſiſtence, which the enemy had taken care to carry off or deſtroy. Soon afterwards Robert made two different incurſions into England, and returned with great booty; he recovered all Scotland out of the hands of the Engliſh, and ſubdued the Iſle of Man in the year 1313.

In the mean time, King Edward, at the head of an hundred thouſand men, entered Scotland, and advanced within view of Stirling, where Robert waited his coming, with an army of thirty thouſand men; and, June the 25, 1314, the two armies engaged, at a place called Bannockbourn, where, notwithſtanding their great ſuperiority, the Engliſh were

were totally routed, with a moſt horrid ſlaughter; the earl of Glocester and a great many Engliſh noblemen were killed, and about ſeven hundred knights lay dead on the field of battle.

Edward haſtily returned to England with the remains of his ſhattered army; and after this victory at Bannockbourn, Bruce continued to make ſeveral incurſions into England, and ravaged the borders in a terrible manner. Edward's affairs were now brought to ſo low an ebb, that he ſollicited the pope to interpoſe his authority to procure a peace for him; and the pope publiſhed a truce for two years between England and Scotland, upon pain of excommunication to the prince who refuſed agreeing to it: but Bruce paid ſo little attention to this menace, that he beſieged and took Berwick. Edward attempted to recover it, but was ſoon obliged to raiſe the ſiege; and after this a truce for two years was agreed on by both kingdoms.

In the year 1323, Edward marched at the head of an army into Scotland, but for want of proviſions, was obliged once more to retreat; and Robert purſued him ſo cloſely, that Edward's baggage fell into his hands, and he himſelf narrowly eſcaped being taken priſoner. The Engliſh army being diſperſed, Robert marched on, ravaged the country to the very walls of York, and then returned home with his

his booty; and having thus humbled King Edward, a truce was at length agreed on for thirteen years.

In the mean time, a civil war breaking out between King Edward and his barons, they compelled him to baniſh the Spencers, who were now his favourites, but he ſoon recalled them; upon which the queen and Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, her gallant, went over to France, taking Prince Edward along with them. They afterwards invaded the kingdom, and being joined by the diſaffected part of the nation, depoſed the king, and hung up the two Spencers, with ſeveral others of the king's adherents; upon which prince Edward was proclaimed King of England, by the name of Edward the Third. Thus ended the reign of Edward the Second, upon the 20th of January 1327, in its twentieth year, and the forty-third of his age.

Edward the Third being no more than fourteen years of age, when he ſucceeded to the crown, the queen and Mortimer uſurped the adminiſtration, and procured King Edward the Second to be murdered, about eight months after he had been depoſed. In the mean time, Charles the Fair, King of France, and brother to the queen-mother of England, dying without iſſue male, King Edward laid claim to the crown of France, and ſent ambaſſadors to demand it: but Philip de Valois, couſin-german

to

to the deceaſed king, procured himſelf to be proclaimed and crowned King of France. Edward not being in a condition at preſent to maintain his pretenſions, found himſelf obliged to go over to France, in the year 1329, to do homage to Philip for Guienne and Ponthieu; and on his return to England, the year following, began to entertain ſome ſuſpicions of the conduct of the queen his mother; upon which he had her ſeized at Nottingham caſtle, together with her favourite Mortimer, who having been convicted of ſeveral crimes, was hanged as a traitor on the common gallows at Tyburn; and the queen-mother was confined to the caſtle of Riſing, where ſhe continued eight and twenty years, being the remaining part of her life.

After Edward was at liberty to act for himſelf, his firſt attempt was upon Scotland, whoſe king, David, was but eight or nine years of age: but Edward, not chuſing to act in open violation of a treaty ſubſiſting between England and Scotland, he ordered private inſinuations to be given to Edward Baliol, the ſon of John Baliol, whom Edward the Firſt had raiſed to the throne of Scotland, that now he had a fair opportunity of mounting the throne, whilſt David Bruce was in his minority; and that the King of England was diſpoſed to ſecond his endeavours. Baliol liſtening to theſe propoſals, attended by ſeveral adventurers from England, embarked with a ſmall army; and landing in Scotland, routed four ſeveral armies ſent to

oppoſe him. After this, he took Perth; and ſeveral lords and gentlemen coming in and ſwearing fealty to him, the young King David was obliged to fly to France; ſoon after which Baliol was crowned King of Scotland, and did the like homage to King Edward for that kingdom, that his father had done to Edward the Firſt.

Things thus ſucceeding to his mind, Edward threw off the maſk, and marching with a powerful army towards Scotland, laid ſiege to Berwick. The Regent, whom David had left in Scotland, advancing to the relief of the place, was met by Edward at Halydon-hill, and in a bloody battle, fought in the year 1333, was entirely routed; after which Berwick ſurrendered to King Edward, who annexed it to the crown of England. But the voluntary homage Baliol had paid, and the many places he had given up to Edward, ſo exaſperated the Scots, that they roſe againſt him, and coming upon him unawares, totally defeated him, and drove him out of the kingdom.

Upon this, Edward marched again into Scotland, with a numerous army, but the Scots were ſo encamped, that he could not attack them: he therefore paſſed the winter at Roxburgh, and, in the ſpring 1335, attacked Scotland by ſea and land, and advanced to the northern ocean, and yet without gaining any very conſiderable advantage. Many of the Scots however finding that Edward was fully reſolved

reſolved to continue the war, ſubmitted; upon which he returned to England, leaving the Earl of Athol to command in his abſence: but as this nobleman was beſieging Kildrummy, he was attacked, defeated, and killed by Dunbar and Douglas, who marched to the relief of the place. This occaſioned Edward to march once more into Scotland, where he ravaged the counties that had revolted, and burnt ſeveral towns: then leaving a ſmall army under Baliol, he returned to England.

Edward, being now reſolved to put his project againſt France into execution, made vaſt preparations, and entered into ſeveral powerful alliances, and having ſet ſail from England, in 1338, with a conſiderable fleet, arrived at Antwerp, where he made a long ſtay, to ſettle ſome matters of importance relative to his grand deſign. The firſt campaign was not opened till September 1339, when Edward put himſelf at the head of forty thouſand men, and marched towards the enemy, who were advancing with a numerous army to give him battle. However matters were ſo managed, that the firſt campaign paſſed without any bloodſhed.

The next year Edward took the title of King of France, and quartered the arms of France with thoſe of England, with the motto, *Dieu et mon droit*. In the mean time, an Engliſh fleet of three hundred ſail attacked the French fleet of four hundred, on the coaſt

of Flanders, and took or deſtroyed them all, except thirty.

Then landing his forces, Edward laid ſiege to Tournay. At laſt a truce was agreed on between both parties, by the good offices of Joanna de Valois, mother-in-law to Edward, and ſiſter to Philip the French king, and was ſucceeded by another truce for three years.

While Edward was in France, Robert Stuart, regent of Scotland for King David, forced Baliol to the borders of England; wherefore Edward, upon his return, determined to invade Scotland once more, by ſea and land; but was prevented by his fleet ſuffering in a violent ſtorm. Soon after, David, being furniſhed with men and money by the King of France, returned to Scotland, and getting together a conſiderable army, marched into England, and advanced as far as Durham, which he beſieged and took, and put the inhabitants to the ſword: but upon the news of Edward's approach, David retired northward; and Edward being intent upon his French war, offered David a truce for two years, which he accepted, and had an opportunity, by that means, of fixing himſelf more firmly on his throne.

Edward, in the mean time, called a parliament, in which he ſolemnly confirmed all the liberties contained in the great charter, and

created his eldeſt ſon Prince Edward, Prince of Wales, who in a preceding parliament had been created Duke of Cornwall, and was the firſt in England that had the title of Duke.

Edward, having made great preparations to renew the war with France, lands in Normandy in 1346, with the Prince of Wales his ſon, who was now to make his firſt campaign; being about ſixteen years of age. He ravaged the country through which he paſſed in a terrible manner with fire and ſword. At length, having bravely forced a paſs over the Somme, which was guarded by twelve thouſand French, he encamped at Creſſy, where he drew up his army in order of battle, expecting the enemy, by whom he was attacked at four in the afternoon on the 26th of Auguſt 1346. The battle was obſtinate and bloody, and at length the French were totally routed. The Prince of Wales performed ſuch wonders, that he had the honour of the victory. Philip, who fought with undaunted valour, being wounded in the neck and thigh, was carried off the field; and in this famous battle were ſlain the King of Bohemia, the Earl of Alençon King Philip's brother, the Duke of Lorrain, the Earls of Flanders and Blois, fifteen other eminent noblemen, and twelve hundred knights; and above eighy French ſtandards were taken. After this Edward beſieged Calais, which having held out a whole year, was at length reduced by famine; and after the taking of this important place, Edward

agreed to a year's truce, and returned triumphant to England.

During the ſiege of Calais, David King of Scotland, being prevailed on by King Philip to make a diverſion in England, advanced as far as Durham, with a formidable army; but being met by Philippa, Edward's queen, at the head of a numerous army, he was not only defeated, but taken priſoner. David remained a priſoner in England eleven years, at the end of which he was releaſed, and after having concluded a truce for ten years with England, he died in 1368, and left his crown to his nephew Robert Stuart.

Philip de Valois, the King of France, dying in the year 1350, was ſucceeded by his ſon John, who prolonged the truce to the year 1355. When it was nearly expired, King Edward inveſted the Prince of Wales, now called the Black Prince, from his wearing black armour, with the dutchy of Guienne, and ſent him thither to proſecute the war. From thence the prince made an incurſion and ravaged Languedoc. He afterwards made a ſecond incurſion with twelve thouſand men: but the King of France, at the head of ſixty thouſand men, coming up with him at Maupertuis, near Poictiers, a memorable battle enſued, September 19th 1356, in which the Prince of Wales, notwithſtanding the great ſuperiority of the French, obtained a complete victory, took King John priſoner, with Philip his fourth ſon. The Duke of Bourbon,

Bourbon, the conſtable of France, the marſhal de Nelſe, above fifty other lords, and eight hundred gentlemen were ſlain. After this battle, a truce was agreed on for two years; and in April following, the Prince of Wales arrived in England, with his royal priſoners, who were treated by King Edward and the reſt of the royal family with all poſſible reſpect.

King John, in order to recover his liberty, agreed upon a treaty with the King of England: but the ſtates of France thought the treaty ſo diſadvantageous, that they refuſed to ratify it; upon which Edward made preparation for renewing the war; and in 1360, went over to Calais with an army of 100,000 men, in order to ſubdue that kingdom. But he miſſed his aim, for though he ravaged France to the very gates of Paris, yet he could not by any means draw Charles the dauphin and regent out to an engagement, who kept within the walls, till Edward, having loſt many of his men by ſickneſs, and tired with diſappointments, conſented to a treaty, ſigned May the 8th 1360, by which the King of France was ſet at liberty, a vaſt ſum of money was paid to the King of England, and a ceſſion made to him of ſeveral territories in France.

In the year 1367, the Prince of Wales marched with an army of thirty thouſand men from Bourdeaux, in order to reſtore Peter king of Caſtile, who had been driven from his dominions

nions by his baſtard brother, Henry Earl of Tranſtamare. The prince ſucceeded in his deſign, by totally routing the Spaniſh army; but in this expedition he contracted a diſorder, which proved fatal to him, and by which he died June the 8th 1376, in the forty-ſixth year of his age, to the great grief of the whole nation. His father King Edward did not long ſurvive him, for he died at Richmond June 22, 1377, in the ſixty-fifth year of his age, and fifty firſt of his reign. This great prince, towards the latter part of his reign, was very unfortunate. In the year 1368, he loſt his ſecond ſon Lionel Duke of Clarence; and ſoon afterwards his Queen Philippa. In the year 1369, Charles the Fifth of France, who ſucceeded his father John, declared war againſt England, and before the end of that war, in 1374, the Engliſh found themſelves deprived of all their acquiſitions in France except Calais.

Upon the death of Edward the Third, Richard, eldeſt ſon of the Black Prince, ſucceeded to the crown at the age of eleven years, and on the 16th of July 1377, was crowned at Weſtminſter, without oppoſition. The parliament meeting in October, gave the regency of the kingdom to the king's three uncles, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaſter, Edmund Earl of Cambridge and Duke of York, and Thomas of Woodſtock Duke of Gloceſter, joining with them ſeveral ſpiritual and temporal lords.

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In the year 1381, while the nation was involved in a war with France, and thoſe about the king had more regard to their own private intereſt than that of the public, a ſurpriſing inſurrection broke out, which threatened the whole kingdom with deſtruction. The parliament had impoſed a poll tax, by which all perſons above fifteen years old were obliged to pay twelve pence a head, the monks and nuns not excepted. This tax was levied with great moderation at firſt, but was afterwards farmed by ſeveral perſons who, having advanced a ſum to the king, were entitled to what they could raiſe by it. It was therefore exacted by theſe farmers and collectors with great rigour; and one of the collectors, having demanded of a tyler at Deptford in Kent, whoſe name was Walter Hilliard, twelve pence for one of his daughters, the father refuſed to pay it, alledging that ſhe was under the age mentioned in the act. The collector, in an inſolent manner, attempting to behave rudely to the young woman, under pretence of ſeeing whether ſhe was arrived at the age of puberty, and liable to the duty, was killed on the ſpot by the tyler, who excited the people to join him in defence of their wives and daughters, and to aboliſh the taxes, which were thought extremely burdenſome. Many were prevailed upon to riſe, with whom he marched to Blackheath, and their number was ſoon increaſed to 100,000 men.

This

This prodigious mob entered Southwark on the 10th of June, ſet at liberty the priſoners in the King's-bench and Marſhalſea priſons, and levelled the houſes of all lawyers and queſtmen to the ground; and while one party went to Lambeth, where they burnt the archiepiſcopal palace, with the rich furniture, books, and regiſters, another deſtroyed the common-ſtews, along the bank-ſide, then kept by Fleminſh bawds, who farmed them of the city.

In this dreadful confuſion, the lord-mayor cauſed the gate of London-bridge to be ſhut and fortified; but the next day the rebels were admitted into the city, and the ſhambles and wine-cellers ſet open for their accommodation. Being now joined by the city rabble, they haſted to the Savoy, then the Duke of Lancaſter's palace, which was the moſt magnificent edifice in the kingdom, and burnt it with all its rich furniture to the ground. They then marched to the Temple, which, at that time, belonged to Sir Robert Hales, the lord-high-treaſurer, and burnt that building, with all the records in chancery, and the books and papers belonging to the ſtudents of the law; they burnt alſo the other inns of court.

After this, dividing into three bodies, one proceeded to the rich priory of St. John of Jeruſalem, of which the high-treaſurer was prior, which they likewiſe burnt; and then burnt a ſtately manſion-houſe of the high-treaſurer, at Highbury, north of London. The

The ſecond diviſion marched to the Tower, which they entred, notwithſtanding it was guarded by 600 men at arms, and 600 archers; and there ſiezing Simon Sudbury, archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the high-treaſurer, they cauſed them both to be beheaded on Tower-hill. The third diviſion proceeded to Mile-end, where they were met by the King, who agreed to all their demands, upon which they diſperſed the ſame day, and returned home.

But Wat Tyler, with the reſt of this tumultuous rabble, continued to commit the greateſt diſorders in London and Weſtminſter; and, under the pretence of reforming public abuſes, they ſet open the priſons of the Fleet and Newgate, murdered many of the moſt eminent citizens, and dragging the Flemiſh merchants from the churches, where they had taken refuge, beheaded them in the ſtreets; making proclamation for the beheading not only all lawyers and perſons concerned in the Exchequer, but even all who were able to write.

At length the King, encouraged by his ſucceſs at Mile-end, ſent to let Wat Tyler know, that he would be glad of a conference with him in Smithfield; upon which Tyler marched ſlowly thither, at the head of his men; and upon ſight of the King, rode boldly up to him, leaving his men behind. His behaviour and propoſals were equally brutiſh and abſurd; for he would be ſatisfied with nothing leſs than a com-

commiſſion to behead all lawyers, and the abolition of all the antient laws of the kingdom: the King not only refuſed to comply, but ordered William Walworth, the lord-mayor, to arreſt him, and Walworth immediately gave him ſuch a blow upon the head with his ſword, that he fell wounded from his horſe, and was ſoon diſpatched.

The rebels, in the mean time, obſerving what was done, cried out, "Our captain is "murdered, let us revenge his death," and immediately bent their bows; upon which the King, though but fifteen years of age, rode up to them, and addreſſed them thus. "My "friends, will you kill your King? be not "troubled for the loſs of your leader, I will "be your captain, and grant you what you "deſire." Upon this they changed their reſolution, and marched under his conduct to St. George's Fields, where finding a thouſand citizens, completely armed, they were ſtruck with ſuch a panic, that, throwing down their arms, they begged for mercy, which being granted, they immediately diſperſed.

The remaining part of this reign was nothing but confuſion. The parliament, diſguſted at the King's adminiſtration, compelled him to dimiſs his favourites, raiſed an army againſt him, made him priſoner in the Tower of London, and then depoſed him; upon which the Duke of Lancaſter, eldeſt ſon of John of Gaunt, claiming the crown, as Richard

chard had no iſſue, the parliament reſolved September 30, 1399, that he ſhould be proclaimed King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, by the name of Henry the Fourth, which was done accordingly the ſame day; ſoon after which Richard was murdered.

The parliament, thinking they had not done enough, in giving Henry the crown, thought fit to ſecure it to his iſſue, by paſſing an act, to ſettle the ſucceſſion in the houſe of Lancaſter. This might have been attended with no bad conſequence, had not the ſecond ſon of the Duke of York married Anne, only ſurviving iſſue of Philippa, only daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, Edward the Third's ſecond ſon; which at length proved the ſource of a long and bloody conteſt for the crown, between the houſes of York and Lancaſter. In this reign the Welch revolted, and there were ſeveral rebellions raiſed againſt Henry, which however he cruſhed; and died the 20th of March 1413, in the forty-fifth year of his age, and the fourteenth of his reign.

Immediately on the death of Henry the Fourth, his eldeſt ſon was proclaimed King, by the name of Henry the Fifth, and crowned the 9th of April following, at the age of twenty-five years. Henry no ſooner mounted the throne, than he began to think of recovering what the Engliſh had loſt in France, and, by his ambaſſadors, renewed his claims to that kingdom, as heir to King Edward the Third: but leſt this ſhould be thought too

much, the ambaſſadors contented themſelves with demanding what territories had been yielded to Edward the Third by treaty. This occaſioned ſeveral embaſſies between the two courts; and the truce between the two crowns was, from time to time, renewed. All hopes of accommodation being at length over, Henry embarked with his troops, in Auguſt 1415, and on the 21ſt of that month landed at Havre de Grace in Normandy. He marched directly and laid ſiege to Harfleur, which he took, after a vigorous reſiſtance; and, expelling the inhabitants, peopled it with Engliſh. Then marching to Calais, he croſſed the Somme, on the 19th of October, where the French army, under the Conſtable D'Albert, were waiting, near a caſtle called Agincourt, to give him battle, in full confidence of victory, being, according to ſome writers, ſix times as many as the Engliſh. Henry, however, after encouraging his men, thought fit to attack them, about ten in the morning, October 25, 1415; and the battle laſted till almoſt five in the afternoon, when, by the ſurpriſing courage and conduct of the king, and the bravery of his troops, the French army were entirely routed. The Conſtable D'Albert, the Duke of Alençon, ſeveral other princes and great men, and officers of diſtinction, with ten thouſand private men, were left dead in the field. Among the priſoners were the Dukes of Orleans and Bourbon, and many other perſons of great rank. The Engliſh loſt only the Duke of York, and the Earl of Suffolk, with about 400 pri-

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400 private men. The next morning Henry continued his march to Calais, and about the middle of November returned in triumph to England.

After the famous battle of Agincourt, a moſt furious civil war broke out in France, which was of the greateſt advantage to Henry, and contributed more to bring about his deſigns than perhaps his arms could have done: he became maſter of Normandy 215 years after it had been taken from the Engliſh, in the reign of King John: he took Pontoiſe, which opened him a way to the very gates of Paris, but, at length, a treaty was concluded at Troye, on the 21ſt of May 1420, by which it was agreed, that Henry ſhould marry the Princeſs Catharine of France, that he ſhould be regent of the kingdom during King Charles's life; and that, after his death, the crown of France ſhould deſcend to the king of England, and his heirs for ever; and this treaty was ratified by the ſtates of France.

In February 1421, Henry arrived in England, with his queen, who was crowned a few days after. In June following the King returned to France, and in about a year afterwards, the queen arrived there from England; and the two courts kept their Whitſun holidays at Paris, in a very magnificent manner: but in the midſt of all his glory, Henry died at Vincennes, the laſt day of Auguſt, in the year 1422, being the 34th year of his age, and the

tenth year of his reign, and his body being brought over to England, was buried in Weſtminſter-abby.

Henry the Fifth was ſucceeded by his ſon Henry the Sixth, who was ſcarce nine months old at the death of his father. He was, however, immediately proclaimed not only king of England, but heir of France, according to the treaty of Troye; and, upon the death of Charles the Sixth, who died in leſs than two months after, the Duke of Bedford, uncle to the infant King, had him proclaimed King of France at Paris, according to the ſame treaty, and took on himſelf the regency of the kingdom, as the late king his brother had deſired, when at the point of death. On the other hand, the Dauphin of France, as ſoon as he heard of his father's death, cauſed himſelf to be proclaimed King of France, and was crowned in November at Poictiers.

About the ſame time the parliament of England met, to ſettle the government during the King's minority: they named the council, filled up the great offices of the crown, and appointed John, Duke of Bedford, as the elder of the late King's brothers, protector of the kingdom: but as he was regent of France, the Duke of Glouceſter, his youngeſt brother, was empowered to act in his abſence; and they appointed Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, and Henry, biſhop of Wincheſter, both ſons of John of Gaunt, to be his governors,

nors, and to take care of his perſon and education.

Whilſt England enjoyed a profound peace, France was the ſeat of war; where Charles, endeavouring to recover the throne of his anceſtors, and the Duke of Bedford to ſecure for King Henry what the late King had obtained by the treaty of Troye, numberleſs lives were loſt in the quarrel, which laſted upwards of thirty years.

In the year 1423, James the firſt, king of Scotland, who was priſoner in England, was ſet at liberty, on condition that the Scots ſhould no longer aſſiſt the French againſt the Engliſh: he had been priſoner in England ever ſince the year 1406. His father, King Robert, ſent him off for France, to be out of the way of his uncle the Duke of Albany, who aſpired to the crown. The young prince, ſailing by the coaſt of Norfolk, went on ſhore to refreſh himſelf, where he was ſeized and ſent up to King Henry the Fourth, who confined him in the Tower. King Robert died a few days after, and the crown devolved upon his captive ſon. Towards the end of the year 1424, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, died in his government of Ireland, without iſſue; and Richard, Duke of York, his nephew, ſon of Anne his ſiſter and the Earl of Cambridge, beheaded in the late reign, whoſe elder brother died without iſſue, ſucceeded to

all his rights, particularly that of the crown of England.

At length the affairs of the Engliſh began to decline every where in France, to which the differences in England, particularly thoſe between the Duke of Glouceſter and the Cardinal biſhop of Wincheſter, had not a little contributed. However, the Duke of Bedford, thinking it might be of ſervice to have King Henry crowned in France, the young King, having been firſt crowned in England on the 6th of November 1429, went over to Paris, and was crowned there, about the end of the following year, and returned to England in January 1432, being then ten years of age. After this, the Duke of Burgundy having concluded a ſeparate peace with King Charles, the affairs of the Engliſh in France went to ruin apace; and to add to their misfortunes, the Duke of Bedford died about the ſame time, who was, in all reſpects, one of the moſt accompliſhed princes in Europe. He was ſucceeded in the regency of France by the Duke of York: but before he arrived at Paris, that capital of the kingdom fell into the hands of the French, on the 13th of April 1436.

In the year 1437, died Catherine of France, King Henry's mother, and widow of King Henry the Fifth. After the death of that great prince, ſhe ſo far deſcended from her rank and dignity, as to marry Owen Tudor, a Welch gentleman, who was ſaid to have ſprung from the

the antient Kings of Wales. By Queen Catharine he had three ſons, Edmund, Jaſper, and Owen; the eldeſt was created Earl of Richmond by King Henry the Sixth, and married Margaret, only daughter of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, grandſon of John of Gaunt. From this marriage ſprang Henry, Earl of Richmond, afterwards King of England, under the name of Henry the Seventh.

In the year 1445, King Henry married Margaret of Anjou, who, being a woman of great ſpirit, and of a high and enterpriſing genius, got the whole adminiſtration into her own hands, ſo that ſhe and her favourites managed the King, who was of a weak and eaſy nature, and had no capacity for government, juſt as they pleaſed. This cauſed great uneaſineſs among the people, and all things in England appeared running into confuſion, by the ambitious and deſtructive meaſures of the queen and her miniſters; and before the end of the year 1453, Henry loſt all France, nothing remaining to him of his vaſt acquiſitions in that kingdom, except Calais and Guiſnes.

The Engliſh court, in the mean time, was divided into two parties, one headed by Humphrey, Duke of Glouceſter, and the other by the cardinal biſhop of Wincheſter. The duke was a great favourite of the people, had a ſincere regard to the true intereſt of the king his nephew, and was a zealous friend to the nation: but the cardinal got the better of him

him in the council. and in the king's confidence; this prelate had moreover the intereſt of the Queen, and the Duke of Suffolk, who were enemies to the Duke of Glouceſter, for having expreſſed his diſlike to the match between the King and Margaret. Having therefore intereſt to remove Duke Humphrey from the council board, they procured him to be arreſted at St. Edmundſbury, in the year 1447, and cloſely confined, under pretence that he intended to aſſaſſinate the King, and to ſeize upon the crown; and the next morning after his being taken into cuſtody, he was found dead in his bed, and believed to have been murdered: thus fell Duke Humphrey, who was commonly called the good Duke of Glouceſter, and was buried at St. Alban's *. The cardinal, who had been one of the principal hands in his death, ſurvived him not above a month; and in 1450, the commons purſued the Duke of Suffolk ſo vigorouſly, that the queen, in order to ſave him, was under a neceſſity to have him baniſhed; but in his paſſage to France, being met by an Engliſh man of war, the captain, without any ceremony, ordered his head to be ſtruck off.

The univerſal hatred of the people to the adminiſtration, for their violent and arbitary proceedings, and particularly for the murder of the Duke of Glouceſter, put Richard Duke of York upon aſſerting his claim to the crown,

* See an account of his tomb in Vol. II. p. 167.

as

as heir by his mother of the houſe of Mortimer or March, deſcended from the Duke of Clarence, third ſon of Edward the Third, and elder brother of the Duke of Lancaſter; the Duke of York, in order to feel how the people ſtood affected to him, inſtigated one Jack Cade, under the name of John Mortimer, to raiſe a rebellion in Kent, where he drew together great numbers of malecontents, under pretence of reforming the government, and became ſo ſtrong, that he encamped on Blackheath, cut in pieces a detachment of the king's army, and entered London, as if it were in triumph, the city opening her gates to him: but this inſurrection was ſoon at an end, Cade being deſerted by his followers, and at length taken and killed.

The Duke of York having concerted meaſures with his friends, particularly Richard Nevil, Earl of Saliſbury, and his ſon Richard, the Earl of Warwick, the war broke out between the two houſes of Lancaſter and York; the houſe of Lancaſter having the red roſe, and the houſe of York the white roſe for their device. The firſt battle between thoſe two houſes was fought near St. Alban's, on May the 31ſt, 1455, when the royal army was totally routed, and the King himſelf taken priſoner: the Duke of York affected to treat the King with great reſpect, and was appointed protector of the realm; but ſetting the royal family at liberty, he was diſmiſſed from the protectorſhip. In 1459, the Earl of Saliſbury de-

defeated the King's troops commanded by Lord Audley. A third battle was fought at Northampton, July the 19th 1460, in which the Earl of March, eldeſt ſon to the Duke of York, the Earl of Warwick, and the Lord Cobham, gained a complete victory over the King's troops. The King was again taken priſoner, and the Queen, with the Prince of Wales, retired into Wales, and afterwards into Scotland.

The Queen having drawn together an army of 18000 men in the north, the Duke of York marched againſt her, with no more than 5000 men, expecting his ſon, the Earl of March, to join him; but before he could come up, the Duke was attacked by the Queen's forces near Wakefield in Yorkſhire, on December 31, 1460, his army routed, himſelf ſlain, and his head fixed up on the walls of York, together with the head of the Earl of Saliſbury, who was taken and beheaded at Pontefract: the young Earl of Rutland, the Duke of York's ſecond ſon, about twelve years of age, was taken in the flight, and cruelly put to death by the Lord Clifford. Notwithſtanding this diſcouragement, the Earl of March reſolved to maintain the quarrel.

He firſt defeated Jaſper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, at Mortimer's Croſs, in Herefordſhire, and though the Queen beat the Earl of Warwick, at Bernard's-heath near St. Alban's, in Hertfordſhire, and by that action ſet the

the King at liberty, yet the Earl of March, advancing againſt her with a great army, forced her to retire to the north; and then entering London about the beginning of March 1461, was proclaimed King on the 5th of the ſame month, by the name of Edward the fourth.

Edward, a few days after he was proclaimed King, putting himſelf at the head of 40,000 men, marched againſt the Queen, who now had an army conſiſting of 60,000, which Edward attacked near Towton, in Yorkſhire, on Palm Sunday, and entirely routed: the battle laſted from morning till night; and, it is ſaid that thirty-ſeven thouſand men were left dead on the field. Upon this defeat, Henry and Margaret, who waited at York for the iſſue of the battle, retreated to Berwick, and from thence to Edingburgh; and, Edward, coming to York, took down the heads of his father and the Earl of Saliſbury, and ordered thoſe of the Earl of Devonſhire, and ſome others who were beheaded as traitors, to be ſet up in their room: then he returned to London on the 8th of June, and was ſolemnly crowned at Weſtminſter on the 29th of the ſame month.

Edward was deſirous to conclude a treaty with Scotland, in order to prevent Henry from having any aſſiſtance from that kingdom; but Margaret, to defeat his meaſures, delivered up Berwick

Berwick to the Scots, and concluded a marriage between Prince Edward, her ſon, and Margaret, ſiſter to King James the third. However, as there were great diviſions in Scotland about this time, Edward found means to conclude a treaty with the Earl of Roſs and his faction, in order to create new troubles there.

Now Queen Margaret went over to France, and ſoliciting the aid of Lewis the eleventh, was aſſiſted with troops and money, with which ſhe entered Northumberland, in 1463, attended by the King, her huſband, and Prince Edward, her ſon. Having alſo received ſome aſſiſtance from Scotland; and being conſiderably reinforced from ſeveral parts in the north of England, her troops were ſurprized near Huxham, by Lord Montague, brother to the Earl of Warwick, and entirely routed: but the Queen, her huſband, and the Prince, their ſon, eſcaped into Scotland. At length the unfortunate depoſed King, being afraid to continue any longer in Scotland, retired privately into England, in hopes of concealing himſelf there, till he ſhould find an opportunity of eſcaping over ſea; but being diſcovered, and ſeized at Waddington Hall, in Lancaſhire, he was conducted to London, and confined in the Tower; upon which the Queen went over with the young Prince to Rene of Anjou, her father.

In

In 1464 King Edward ſent the Earl of Warwick, to demand for him in marriage Bona of Savoy, ſiſter to the Queen of France; but while this match was negotiating, he fell deſperately in love with Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Richard Woodville, and widow of Sir John Grey, and married her: this marriage was very diſagreeable to the nation in general; and the favours heaped upon the Queen's relations, raiſed the jealouſy of the nobles, and particularly of the Duke of Clarence, the King's brother: but none was ſo provoked at this marriage as the Earl of Warwick, who had actually concluded a treaty of marriage in France for the King, and who conſidered himſelf ſo much inſulted by it, that he was become Edward's mortal enemy; and, as he had ſet him upon the throne, was reſolved to make an effort to pull him down.

He, therefore, withdrew from court, and began to form a project for dethroning Edward: to this end, he gained over his two brothers, the archbiſhop of York, and the Marquis of Montague; and, not long after, found means to engage the Duke of Clarence, the King's brother, in the confederacy. They began by raiſing an inſurrection in Yorkſhire, which the King imagined had been ſet on foot by the friends of the houſe of Lancaſter, not in the leaſt ſuſpecting the Earl of Warwick, or his brother the Duke of Clarence.

As the malecontents were advancing towards London, the King ſent Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and governor of Wales, againſt them, with what forces he could draw together. But the Earl being defeated at Banbury, in Oxfordſhire, and taken priſoner, was beheaded by the rebels, together with Sir Richard Herbert, his brother. At the ſame time there was another inſurrection in Northamptonſhire, where the malecontents went to the manſion-houſe of the Queen's father, who was now advanced to the dignity of Earl Rivers, ſeized him, and ſtruck off his head at Northampton.

The King, all this time, not ſuſpecting Warwick, nor his brother the Duke of Clarence, granted them commiſſions, in order to raiſe troops to make head againſt the rebels: they made uſe of their commiſſions to raiſe men; but inſtead of acting againſt the rebels, they declared for them; upon this, the King marched againſt them in perſon, in the year 1470, and the two armies advanced within ſight of one another: but while a negotiation was on foot, in order to accommodate differences, the Earl of Warwick ſurprized the King's camp in the night, and taking Edward priſoner, conducted him to Middleham Caſtle, in Yorkſhire, and committed him to the cuſtody of the archbiſhop of York.

Edward, in the mean time, having found means to bribe his guard, made his eſcape, and

and arrived in London, where he uſed all imaginable diligence to raiſe forces; and being ſoon at the head of a conſiderable army, marched againſt Sir Robert Wells, who was ſent by the Earl of Warwick to levy troops in Lincolnſhire, and whom the King reſolved to attack, before he could join the Earl and the Duke of Clarence: the King coming up with Sir Robert, near Stamford, routed his whole army, with the ſlaughter of 10,000 men; and, taking himſelf priſoner, ordered his head to be ſtruck off: the Earl of Warwick and the Duke of Clarence, who had been alſo raiſing forces, but had not yet completed their levies, hearing of this defeat, and receiving intelligence at the ſame time that the King was marching againſt them, retired to France, in order to concert new meaſures there. Being arrived on the continent, they waited upon the French King, who promiſed them a powerful aid: but they thought it alſo neceſſary to enter into an alliance with Queen Margaret, in order to reſtore Henry, as that would be the beſt pretence for dethroning Edward.

The Earl of Warwick, being thus furniſhed with money and troops, ſet ſail from the continent with the Duke of Clarence, and landed at Dartmouth, where he ſoon found his army increaſed to 60,000 men. At the head of this army he proclaimed Henry the ſixth, and marched in purſuit of Edward, who fled before him, and with great difficulty embarked on board a veſſel for Holland. In the mean

time, the Earl of Warwick and the Duke of Clarence entered London in triumph, about the beginning of October 1470, and having releaſed King Henry the ſixth, after a confinement of ſix years, had him proclaimed King, upon the 14th of the ſame month. A parliament was now called, which met upon the 20th of November, voted Edward a traitor and uſurper, confiſcated all his eſtate, and annulled all the acts made in his reign.

The Duke of Burgundy, to whom Edward had fled for protection, having reſolved to aſſiſt him in recovering the crown, accordingly furniſhed him with ſome ſhips, money, and a ſmall body of men, with which Edward ſet ſail, about the middle of March 1471, and landed at Ravenſpur, in Yorkſhire. Being but coldly received at firſt, he pretended that he came only to claim his private eſtate: he aſſumed no other title than Duke of York, and publickly acknowledged Henry for his ſovereign.

When he came to York, the magiſtrates refuſed to open the gates to him, but the people forced them open, upon his promiſing not to plunder the city, and that he would continue faithful to King Henry. Edward's army being conſiderably reinforced at York, he determined to march to London; and as he had ſome time before privately won over his brother, the Duke of Clarence, who promiſed to deſert the Earl of Warwick, whenever he could do it

it with advantage, the Duke left the Earl at Coventry, and joined his brother, who continued his march to London, where his party prevailing upon the news of his approach, he was received into that city upon the 11th of April, amidſt the acclamations of the people, and Henry, after a reign of ſeven months, was again ſent to the Tower.

A few days after Edward had recovered the throne, he put himſelf at the head of his army, and marched againſt the Earl of Warwick, who was advancing to London, and had already arrived at Barnet. Here the two armies met, upon Eaſter Day, the 14th of April, early in the morning, when the battle began, and continued with great obſtinacy and reſolution till noon, when Warwick's army, overpowered by numbers, was totally routed, himſelf killed upon the field, together with his brother, the Marquis of Montague, and a great number of other perſons of diſtinction.

Queen Margaret, who, with Prince Edward, her ſon, was juſt arrived from France, upon the news of this fatal blow, abandoning herſelf to grief and deſpair, took refuge in the abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampſhire: but the Duke of Somerſet, the Earl of Pembroke, and other Lords, who ſtill adhered to her intereſt, perſuaded her to try her fortune once more; and put her ſon, the prince of Wales,

then about eighteen years old, at the head of an army. Thoſe Lords got together a conſiderable number of troops, which, being ſoon joined by the ſcattered remains of the Earl of Warwick's army, made up a formidable body. The King, in the mean time, being acquainted with theſe proceedings, reſolved to attack Queen Margaret's troops, before the Earl of Pembroke could join them with the troops which he had been raiſing in Wales; and ſo coming up with them at Tewkesbury, in Gloceſterſhire, where they had in haſte entrenched themſelves, he broke into their camp, and entirely routed them, eighteen days after the battle of Barnet. The Queen, Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Somerſet, were taken priſoners. The Prince was ſtabbed to death in cold blood, in the preſence of the Dukes of Clarence and Gloceſter, the King's brothers: the Duke of Somerſet was beheaded, and Queen Margaret was ſent priſoner to the Tower, where ſhe remained till the year 1475, when ſhe was ranſomed by Lewis the eleventh of France.

Edward, now thinking he ſhould not be in perfect ſecurity ſo long as Henry the ſixth lived, reſolved to have him aſſaſſinated; and Richard, Duke of Gloceſter, Edward's brother, a man cruelly diſpoſed, having undertaken to diſpatch him, with his own hand ſtabbed him to death in the Tower, whence his body

was removed to the abbey of Chertſey, in Surry, and afterwards to Windſor.

The Earl of Richmond, being the only Prince now left of the houſe of Lancaſter, who could lay any claim to the crown, King Edward was very deſirous to get him into his hands; but having embarked for France, ſoon after the battle of Tewkeſbury, with his uncle, Jaſper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, he was driven aſhore on the coaſt of Brittany, where he was arreſted, by order of the Duke. Edward, upon intelligence of this accident, demanded him of the Duke of Brittany: but the Duke, conſidering that the King's deſign was to ſacrifice him to his own ſecurity, abſolutely refuſed to deliver him up to Edward's Ambaſſadors.

Edward, being now eſtabliſhed on the throne, concluded treaties and alliances with ſeveral foreign princes and ſtates, as the Kings of Scotland, Denmark, Caſtile, and Portugal; and Lewis the eleventh of France, being at war with the Duke of Burgundy, offered Edward a truce, leſt he ſhould aſſiſt the Duke, which Edward accepted of: but ſoon after that treaty, the Duke of Burgundy entered into a new treaty with Edward, in order to carry on the war jointly againſt France. Agreeable to the terms of this new treaty, Edward paſſed over with an army into France, in 1475; but not being joined by the Duke of Burgundy, according to agreement, the King of England thought

thought proper to agree to terms of peace with Lewis, which were concluded on between the two monarchs, by plenipotentiaries, at Amiens, and ſworn to at an interview between them on the bridge of Pequigny; after which Edward returned to England.

The King, not ſatisfied with the ſeverities already exerciſed againſt the adherents of the houſe of Lancaſter, proceeded with executing, fining, confining and baniſhing great numbers of them; and finiſhed this bloody ſcene, by the murder of his own brother, the Duke of Clarence, in 1478, with whom he was never heartily reconciled, for joining with the Earl of Warwick, to dethrone him, though he was afterwards the chief means of reinſtating him in that throne; and it is ſaid that he was drowned in a butt of Malmſey wine. At length Edward being ſeized with a violent fever, ſuppoſed to be the effect of a ſurfeit, died on the 9th of April 1483, in the forty-ſecond year of his age, and the twenty-third of his reign, leaving two ſons, Edward, Prince of Wales, who ſucceeded him, and Richard, Duke of York.

Immediately upon the death of Edward the fourth, his eldeſt ſon was proclaimed King of England, by the name of Edward the fifth, though that young Prince, who was but juſt turned of twelve years of age, never received the crown, or exerciſed any function of royalty; ſo that the ſhort interval of two months and twelve

twelve days, between the death of his father and the uſurpation of his uncle, was properly an interregnum, during which, the Duke of Gloceſter took his meaſures for wreſting the crown from his nephew.

The Queen, by her influence over the late King, having got all her relations and favourites promoted to titles and honours, occaſioned an invidious diſtinction between the old and the new nobility; and upon Edward's death, a contention aroſe between the two parties, which ſhould be maſters of the young King's perſon: the Queen, in order to ſecure her own power, was for having the King in her hands, and thoſe of her relations, whilſt the antient nobility were for having him in their cuſtody, that they might remove the Queen and her relations from the government. The young King was then at Ludlow Caſtle, in Shropſhire, with Anthony Woodville, Earl of Rivers, the Queen's brother, whom the late King had appointed his governor. The Queen, jealous of the deſigns of her enemies, directed her brother to raiſe a body of troops, for conducting the young King ſafe to London, in order to be crowned: Upon this, the Duke of Buckingham and Lord Haſtings, immediately ſent to the Duke of Gloceſter, who was then at York, to acquaint him with the Queen's proceedings, and earneſtly entreated him to take meaſures, for getting the young King into his own hands, as the government of the kingdom

kingdom juſtly belonged to him during his nephew's minority.

Richard, in return, deſired the two Lords, with their friends, to meet him at Northampton, in order to confer upon what was proper to be done. Here they came to a reſolution of taking the King out of the cuſtody of his mother and her relations: and it was agreed, that they ſhould try to perſuade the Queen to order the Earl of Rivers, her brother, to diſband his forces; and the Queen being prevailed upon to write to her brother for that purpoſe, he ſet out with the King for London, attended only by his domeſtics.

When they arrived at Northampton, the Dukes of Gloceſter and Buckingham, who had brought a body of armed men into the town, went out to meet the King, and paid him the reſpect due to his dignity. They alſo greatly careſſed Earl Rivers; but immediately after ordered him to be arreſted, together with Lord Grey, the Queen's ſon by her former huſband, and ſeveral others, and ſent them priſoners to Pontefract, under the cuſtody of Sir Richard Ratcliff, the governor, who ſoon afterwards, by orders of the Duke of Gloceſter, ſaw them beheaded. Having now got the King into their hands, they conducted him to London, which he entered the 4th of May, amidſt the loud acclamations of the people, attended by a great many of the nobility, and the Duke of Gloceſter riding before him bare

bare headed: Then the Duke ſummoned a council to ſettle the government, during the King's minority, which conſiſted chiefly of his own friends, who immediately voted him protector of the King and kingdom.

The Queen, upon intelligence of theſe tranſactions, took refuge in Weſtminſter Abbey, with her other ſon, the Duke of York, who was now about nine years of age: but as the Duke of Gloceſter could not accompliſh his grand purpoſe, without getting the King's brother into his hands, he ſent the cardinal archbiſhop of Canterbury to prevail with the Queen to deliver him up, and, in caſe ſhe refuſed, to ſignify to her that ſhe ſhould be compelled. The Queen, apprehenſive of the Protector's deſigns, parted with her ſon in the greateſt diſtreſs; and the Protector having embraced him, with all the appearance of affection, conducted him to the King, who was lodged in the biſhop's houſe; and from thence conducted them both to the Tower, from whence the Kings of England uſed formerly to proceed to their coronation.

The Duke of Gloceſter, now thinking his grand project ready for execution, communicated his deſigns to the Duke of Buckingham and ſome other friends, who held frequent conſultations upon the ſubject with the Protector: but the Lords Stanley and Haſtings, who were known to have a great affection for the late King's

King's children, and who thought that Richard did not deſign to proceed any further, were not admitted into the ſecret.

It was, however, reſolved to win over Lord Haſtings, or diſpatch him out of the way: for which purpoſe perſons were employed to ſound him: but Haſtings expreſſing himſelf with the utmoſt warmth in favour of Edward the fourth's children, his death was reſolved on. The Protector had all this time made a ſhew of preparing for the King's coronation, which was fixed to the 22d of June: but under various pretences, was put off to the 2d of November. In the mean time perſons were employed to give out among the people, that Edward the fourth, and his children were illegitimate, that Edward himſelf was the offspring of the Ducheſs of York's unlawful amours; and that his children ſhould be deemed baſtards, on account of his having been engaged in a marriage contract with another lady before he married Elizabeth Woodville.

The Protector, having aſſembled a council in the Tower, on the 13th of June, aſked the Lords preſent, 'What puniſhment do thoſe deſerve who have conſpired againſt my life?' To which Lord Haſtings made anſwer, that they ought to be puniſhed as traitors. 'It is no other,' cried Richard, 'than that ſorcereſs my ſiſter-in-law, and her accomplices.' Then ſtripping his left arm, which was withered, and which every body knew had been always

ways in that condition, and ſhewing it to the council, 'Behold' ſaid he, 'what that ſorce-'reſs and Shore's wife have done by their 'witchcrafts; and the reſt of my body would 'have ſhared the ſame fate, if God's mercy 'had not prevented them.' Haſtings, who kept Jane Shore after Edward the fourth's death, whoſe concubine ſhe was, could not help expreſſing his doubts about the truth of the information, by ſaying, if they were guilty, they deſerved to be puniſhed. 'How!' cried the Protector, with great emotion, 'doſt 'thou anſwer me with an *if*, as if I had 'forged the accuſation? I tell thee they have 'plotted againſt my life, and thou thyſelf art 'one of their accomplices.' So ſaying, he ſtruck the table twice, and immediately the hall was filled with armed men, when the Protector arreſted Haſtings for high treaſon. In the confuſion, one of the ſoldiers ſtruck at the Lord Stanley with a battle-ax, but he eſcaped by getting under the table. However, he was arreſted, together with the archbiſhop of York, and biſhop of Ely, as perſons all attached to the young King; but the Protector was ſo impatient to have Lord Haſtings executed, that he ſwore he would not dine till he had ſeen it done; accordingly he was beheaded on a log of wood, before the Tower chapel, there not having been time to erect a ſcaffold.

Jane Shore, being brought before the council as an accomplice with Lord Haſtings,

tings, pleaded her cauſe ſo well, that they did not think fit to condemn her: however, ſhe was proſecuted in the biſhop's court, for incontinence, in leaving her huſband to cohabit with other men, and was condemned to do open penance in St. Paul's church, in a white ſheet, with a wax taper in her hand, which ſhe accordingly did.

The King's friends being all dead, or in priſon, or effectually terrified by the late proceedings, the protector and his friends judged this to be the criſis for putting their deſign in execution; and as the principal point was to gain the city of London, the Duke of Buckingham harangued the Mayor, Aldermen, Common-councilmen, and principal citizens, who were ordered to meet at Guildhall for that purpoſe. He enlarged on the objections againſt Edward's children, and the noble qualities of the Duke of Gloceſter, whom he recommended for their King, and in the end deſired them to ſpeak their minds. The people ſtood amazed, and there was a profound ſilence, when ſome of the Duke's ſervants, preſſing into the hall, cried out, *Long live King Richard!* and thoſe being ſeconded by ſome citizens who were bribed, and the mob without doors, the cry became more general, and the Duke of Buckingham, affecting to take it for the univerſal voice of the people, went next day, with the Mayor, Aldermen, and others of the cabal, to make the Protector an offer of the crown. He firſt appeared greatly ſurprized, and expreſſed

preſſed much reluctance to the offer; but being at laſt, as it were, prevailed upon, he accepted the crown on the 19th of June, as it was given out, at the deſire of the people of England, was proclaimed King the next day, by the name of Richard the third, and ſolemnly crowned, together with his Queen, on the 6th of the following month, 1483.

As Richard could not think he enjoyed the crown in ſecurity, ſo long as his two nephews the young King, and his brother, the Duke of York were living, he reſolved to diſpatch them, and, in order to avoid the ſuſpicion of being concerned in this tragedy, to make a progreſs through ſeveral counties. Being come to Gloceſter, he ſent expreſs orders to Sir Robert Brackenbury, who had the government of the Tower, in which his nephews, the Royal children, were ſtill lodged, to put them to death; but Brackenbury deſiring to be excuſed, Richard ſent him a written order by Sir James Tyrrel, requiring him to deliver up to Tyrrel the keys and government of the the Tower, only for one night. Brackenbury obeyed; and Tyrrel taking two Ruffians with him, Miles Foreſt and John Dighton, whom he had hired upon this occaſion, in the dead of the night entered the chamber of the princes, and ruſhing upon them, ſtiffled them both in their bed, and buried them under a little ſtair-caſe. This Tyrrel, who was executed in the following reign, is ſaid to have confeſſed: and in 1674, ſome bones were

found in the place mentioned, which were ſuppoſed to be thoſe of the princes, and which were put up in a marble urn, by order of King Charles the ſecond, and removed to Weſtminſter Abbey.

From Gloceſter, King Richard ſet out for the north, and being arrived at York, was crowned there a ſecond time, about the beginning of September. At this time he created Edward his ſon Prince of Wales, who was then ten years of age, and died in a ſhort time afterwards.

Richard, having thus got rid of his nephews, thought himſelf very ſecure upon the throne: but while he took meaſures for renewing foreign alliances, and endeavoured to make friends of ſuch as he moſt ſuſpected, a conſpiracy was forming againſt him. The Duke of Buckingham, who was the principal inſtrument in placing him upon the throne, thinking himſelf neglected, or at leaſt not rewarded in proportion to the ſervices he had done him, retired from court much diſguſted; and ſoon began to concert meaſures with Morton, biſhop of Ely, for dethroning the uſurper. After ſeveral conferences, they came to a reſolution to ſet up Henry, Earl of Richmond, who was ſtill in Brittany; and being the only remaining branch of the houſe of Lancaſter, they reckoned they ſhould have all the friends of that houſe on their ſide. In order to engage the friends of the houſe of York, it was thought

thought neceſſary, that Henry ſhould promiſe to marry the princeſs Elizabeth, eldeſt daughter of Edward the fourth. The counteſs of Richmond, the mother of Henry, who was married to Lord Stanley, coming in to the confederacy, found means to communicate their ſcheme to the Queen dowager, who readily agreed that Henry ſhould marry her daughter.

Matters being thus concerted, the counteſs ſent truſty perſons to Britanny, to inform the earl her ſon of what was doing in his favour, and to invite him to come over. However, the conſpirators had not taken ſuch precautions to conceal their plot, but Richard had ſome intimation of it, and, beginning to ſuſpect the Duke of Buckingham, ordered him to court: the Duke peremptorily refuſed to come, declared againſt the King, and took up arms; but being ſoon afterwards deſerted by his troops, he was ſeized, and immediately beheaded.

About the ſame time, the Earl of Richmond, ſuppoſing his affairs were in a proſperous train, appeared off the Engliſh coaſt; but receiving intimation how matters ſtood, returned to Brittany, to wait a more favourable opportunity. In the mean time, Richard proceeded with great ſeverity againſt the conſpirators, by putting many of them to death; and ſeveral lords, to eſcape his cruelty, fled to

Brittany to the Earl of Richmond, among whom was Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorſet, ſon to the Queen-dowager.

On the 23d of January 1484, Richard called a parliament, which confirmed his election, recognized his right to the crown, declared the iſſue of Edward the Fourth illegitimate, and paſſed an act of attainder againſt the Earl of Richmond and all his adherents. In the mean time, the Earl finding that he was in danger of being betrayed into the hands of Richard, by Landais, firſt miniſter to the Duke of Brittany, retired from that court to the court of Charles the Eighth of France, where he was civilly received, and promiſed ſome aſſiſtance, not ſo much out of any regard to him, as with a view to raiſe new troubles in England.

The Earl, being at length furniſhed with 2000 men from the court of France, ſet ſail from Harfleur, on the 31ſt of July, and on the 6th of Auguſt landed at Milford Haven, where he was joined by Sir Rice ap Thomas, with a conſiderable body of Welch troops; and as the Earl was of Welch extraction, that country in general favoured his attempt. In a few days afterwards, he arrived at Shrewſbury, where he was joyfully received, and reinforced by 2000 men, under the command of Sir George Talbot. The Lord Stanley and his brother Sir William, having raiſed forces by a commiſſion from the King, had privately given the

the Earl aſſurances that they would join him at a proper opportunity.

Richard, having by this time aſſembled his forces at Nottingham, and hearing that the Earl's deſign was to march to London, reſolved to give him battle on his route. The Earl, in the mean time, was joined by Sir Walter Hungerford, Sir Thomas Bourchier, and ſeveral others, who deſerted the King. On the 22d of Auguſt, the two armies came in ſight of each other at Boſworth, when a battle began, in which the Earl was, at the firſt onſet, in danger of being worſted; but the Lord Stanley joining him with 5000 men, and his brother with 2000, the King's army was entirely routed, after an engagement of two hours, in which Richard gave many ſignal proofs of his valour and courage; and, finding all loſt, ruſhed into the middle of the enemy, and was ſlain, in the 34th year of his age. His crown, being diſcovered among the ſpoil, was brought by a ſoldier to the Lord Stanley, who ſet it upon the Earl of Richmond's head, and ſaluted him King; and his body, being found ſtript naked, and covered with blood and dirt, was, in that condition, thrown acroſs a horſe's back, and carried to Leiceſter, where it was interred.

Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was the ſon of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and of Margaret, deſcended from a natural ſon of John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaſter, by Catharine

tharine Rowet, or Swinford, miſtreſs and afterwards wife of that prince; upon which, his children by her were legitimated by act of parliament, by the name of Beaufort, in the reign of Richard the ſecond; but with the expreſs exception, that neither they nor their iſſue ſhould ſucceed to the crown. Though, by that act, Henry's title to the crown was very exceptionable, yet he choſe to make that alone the foundation of his claim. He therefore put off his marriage with Elizabeth of the houſe of York, whoſe title, without doubt, was better than his, till the parliament ſhould have adjudged him the ſucceſſion, that he might not ſeem to be beholden to her for his right; and reſolved to be crowned before the parliament met, to prevent their entering into any debates about his title, and that he might not ſeem to hold the crown merely by virtue of their conſent.

On the 30th of October 1485, Henry was crowned at Weſtminſter, and on the 7th of November the parliament met, and paſſed an act, that the inheritance of the crown ſhould remain in the King and the heirs of his body; they reverſed the attainder of all thoſe who had taken part with the King, whilſt only Earl of Richmond, and then paſſed an act of attainder againſt the late King and his principal adherents. After this, the King publiſhed a general pardon, to all who ſhould come in and take the oaths to him, by a certain time; then he rewarded his chief friends, and ſome who had accompanied him in his exile. On

On the 18th of January 1486, the nuptials of Henry with the Princeſs Elizabeth were celebrated, to the great joy of the people, who expreſſed more ſatisfaction upon that occaſion, than at the King's entry or coronation, which greatly mortified him, becauſe he had a mortal averſion to the houſe of York; and though he made Elizabeth his Queen, yet he treated her with great coldneſs and indifference as long as ſhe lived; however, on the 20th of September, the Queen was delivered of a Prince, who was named Arthur, in memory of the famous Britiſh monarch of that name, from whom Henry would fain be thought to have deſcended.

Thoſe of the houſe of York, who aſſiſted in raiſing Henry to the throne, acted purely out of hatred to the perſon and government of Richard, and with a view to unite the two houſes, by Henry's marriage with the princeſs Elizabeth. They therefore expected to be treated with the ſame degree of favour as the Lancaſtrians; and every perſon who wiſhed well to the nation was now in hopes, that all diſtinctions would ceaſe between the two parties: but Henry was unhappily otherwiſe diſpoſed, and on all occaſions ſhewed a great averſion to the whole York party; which partiality bred a great deal of ill blood, and was the ſource of moſt of the troubles that diſturbed his reign.

His

His enemies took this opportunity to inſinuate, that he intended to murder Edward Plantagenet Earl of Warwick, ſon to the Duke of Clarence, whom he committed priſoner to the Tower, ſoon after the battle of Boſworth; and the emiſſaries of the houſe of York whiſpered about, that the Duke of York had made his eſcape from the crueltyof his uncle Richard, and was ſtill alive on the continent.

Theſe reports afforded an opportunity to one Richard Simon, a prieſt at Oxford, to paſs upon the world one Lambert Simnel, the illegitimate ſon of a joiner, and a ſtudent under him, for the Duke of York. While Simon was preparing his pupil for the part he was to act, it was rumoured that the Earl of Warwick had eſcaped from the tower; immediately upon this, changing his plan, he determined that Simnel ſhould perſonate this nobleman. It was thought proper to have the firſt ſcene laid in Ireland, where the people in general were zealouſly affected to the houſe of York.

The prieſt had no ſooner carried him thither, but the people were ſo tranſported with joy, that the deputy viceroy, and chancellor of that kingdom, thought they ſhould run no riſk in acknowledging him for their ſovereign; and he was accordingly proclaimed at Dublin, King of England and Lord of Ireland, by the name of Edward the ſixth.

The King, who was alarmed at theſe proceedings, is ſuppoſed to have ſuſpected the Queen dowager, his mother-in-law, as a party in the plot: for ſhe was immediately confined in the monaſtery of Bermondſey, where ſhe remained during her life: and in order to undeceive the populace, who began to believe that the Earl of Warwick was actually in Ireland, he ordered that young Prince to be conducted publicly through the ſtreets of London, from the Tower to St. Paul's church, and then carried back again to the Tower; but the Iriſh gave out, that the perſon whom Henry produced was a counterfeit, and that Simnel was the true Earl of Warwick.

The plot having ſucceeded thus far in Ireland, thoſe who favoured it in England were not idle. The Earl of Lincoln, ſiſter's ſon to Edward the fourth, went over to Flanders, to concert meaſures with the Ducheſs dowager of Burgundy, another of Edward's ſiſters, who agreed to furniſh the pretended King with 2000 German veterans, who in May 1487 arrived in Ireland, with the Earl of Lincoln and Lord Lovel; and immediately upon this, the pretender was crowned at Dublin, with great ſolemnity.

Soon after his coronation, the new King, attended by the German and Iriſh forces, came over to England, in expectation that the people would riſe in his favour: but Henry, having

having drawn his forces together, fell upon them on the 16th of June at Stoke, near Newark upon Trent, and after a ſharp engagement of three hours, totally routed them; the German general, together with the Earls of Lincoln, Kildare and Lord Lovel, were ſlain upon the field. Lambert Simnel and his tutor were taken priſoners, and Henry affected to deſpiſe his rival ſo much, that he would not deprive him of his life, but retained him as a ſcullion in his kitchen; from which low ſtation he was afterwards promoted to the place of a falconer. The prieſt, being impriſoned was never heard of again.

In June 1492, Prince Henry was born, who ſucceeded his father as King of England; and in the ſame year, Chriſtopher Columbus ſailed from Cadiz, with the King of Spain's licence, in order to diſcover America. Now appeared a new pretender to the crown of England: this was Perkin Warbeck, the ſon of a converted jew of Tournay, who had lived ſome time in London, and was inſtructed by the Ducheſs of Burgundy to perſonate the Duke of York, whom ſhe had induſtriouſly given out to be ſtill living. The young impoſtor acted his part ſo well, that many believed him to be the prince he perſonated; and landing in Ireland, he was received as ſuch: however, not ſucceeding there to his mind, he went over to the court of France, upon an invitation given him by the French King, who afterwards, upon a peace with England, ſent him away;

away; upon this Perkin repaired to the Ducheſs of Burgundy's court, where he was owned for her nephew the Duke of York, and had a guard appointed him. Several conſiderable perſons in England favoured this plot; but the King having examined witneſſes concerning the Duke of York's death, and learned the particulars of Perkin's birth, life, and actions, publiſhed them to the world; and receiving information of his friends in England, many were apprehended and put to death.

Notwithſtanding theſe diſcouragements, the Ducheſs of Burgundy, in 1495, embarked Perkin with ſome troops, which, according to her directions, he landed on the coaſt of Kent: but the Kentiſh men taking arms, fell upon them and cut them to pieces, all except 150, who being taken priſoners were hanged up by order of the King. However, ſoon afterwards Perkin landed a ſecond time in Ireland, but not meeting with encouragement there, he retired into Scotland, where he was honourably received by King James the fourth, who owned him for the Duke of York, and gave him to wife Catharine Gordon, daughter to the Earl of Huntley; and moreover, twice invaded England jointly with him; but the Engliſh army advancing to give him battle, and the people not riſing as was expected, the Scotiſh monarch, after ravaging Northumberland, returned to Scotland with his booty.

In 1497, the King having received a ſubſidy from his parliament, to enable him to revenge the late inſult of the Scots, it was leveyed with ſuch rigour, as occaſioned an inſurrection in Cornwall, which was headed by Michael Joſeph a farrier, and Thomas Flammock a lawyer; the malecontents advanced into Devonſhire, and from thence into Somerſetſhire. At Wells, they were joined by the Lord Audley, whom they choſe for their captain, and, then marching into Kent, encamped on Blackheath: but the King marching out againſt them, entirely diſperſed them; and Audley, Flammock, and the farrier, being taken, were executed. Soon after this, a peace was concluded on between England and Scotland, upon which Perkin and his wife were diſmiſſed Scotland, and by their own deſire landed in Ireland.

Perkin had not been long in Ireland, before he was invited by the Corniſh rebels, who promiſed to place him on the throne; and, being now deſtitute of other friends, he embraced the offer, and ſoon found himſelf at the head of 3000 men. Then he publiſhed a proclamation, and aſſumed the title of King Richard the fourth; but deſerting his army, upon intelligence that the King was marching againſt him, he came and ſurrendered himſelf on condition of ſparing his life. He was for ſome time at liberty in appearance; but was obliged to ride through the ſtreets of London, expoſed as an impoſtor to the deriſion of the people.

people. After this, he was twice ſet in the ſtocks, and then committed priſoner to the Tower. But he had not been long there, before he contrived to make his eſcape, with the unfortunate Earl of Warwick; upon which, Henry, reſolving to get rid of them both, ordered Perkin to be hanged, and the Earl to be beheaded on Tower-hill, in November 1499.

In 1501, Catharine of Spain arrived in England, and was married to Arthur Prince of Wales: but the Prince died in about five months after this marriage, in the 17th year of his age; and ſome time afterwards Prince Henry was created Prince of Wales. The King, rather than part with the Princeſs of Wales's dowry, propoſed to marry her to his ſon Henry, to which King Ferdinand of Spain agreeing, a diſpenſation was obtained from the Pope for that purpoſe, and Henry was married to his brother's widow. About the ſame time the princeſs Margaret, the King's eldeſt daughter was married to King James the fourth of Scotland.

Henry falling into a conſumption, died at Richmond, the 22d of April 1509, in the 52d year of his age, and the twenty-fourth of his reign, and was buried in the chapel which he himſelf erected adjoining to Weſtminſter abbey. Elizabeth his Queen died in February 1503.

Henry, at the age of nineteen years, ſucceeded his father Henry the ſeventh, and was immediately proclaimed King of England by the name of Henry the eighth; and in him were united the houſes of Lancaſter and York. His marriage with Catharine, his brother's widow, was ſolemnized the 3d of June, and the coronation of both the King and Queen was performed on the 24th of the ſame month. This happened but a few days before the death of Margaret Counteſs of Richmond, and mother of Henry the ſeventh.

In the year 1511, Henry was prevailed upon to take part in a war, which Pope Julius the ſecond, Ferdinand King of Spain, and the Venetians, had entered into, againſt Lewis the twelfth of France; and early in the ſpring following, ſent an army of 4000 men into Guienne, which, when the three allies had obtained their own ends, returned without ſtriking a blow. Though Henry was deceived in this affair, yet he ſuffered himſelf to be drawn into another treaty againſt France, by the Pope, the Emperor Maximilian, and Ferdinand of Spain, in which he was again impoſed upon, and left to carry on the war by himſelf. Sir Edward Howard, who commanded the fleet, made an unſucceſsful attack on that of France, and loſt his life in the engagement. The French made a deſcent on Suſſex, and returned with booty. This war proved more ſucceſsful by land, for the King, having firſt

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ſent over the beſt part of his troops, arrived himſelf before Terouenne, which his army before had laid ſiege to, on the 2d of Auguſt 1513.

Here the Emperor ſerved under him for 100 crowns a day. The French army, in endeavouring to raiſe the ſiege, were routed by the Engliſh, and the Duke of Longueville, their commander, taken priſoner. This was ludicrouſly called the battle of ſpurs, becauſe the French were thought to have uſed their ſpurs more than their ſwords. The town ſurrendered on the 24th, and was demoliſhed; and on the 15th of September the Engliſh beſieged Tournay, and took it in a few days. This city was preſerved at the interceſſion of Thomas Wolſey, who attended the King on the expedition.

This Wolſey, who was a butcher's ſon at Ipſwich, had been chaplain to the late King; and being by that prince preferred to the deanery of Lincoln, was now become the prime favourite: he was a man of uncommon talents and addreſs, intolerable pride and ambition, and, by his intrigues, afterwards raiſed himſelf to the dignities of Cardinal, Pope's Legate, Archbiſhop of York, chancellor of England and prime miniſter; in ſhort, to ſuch a pitch of power and grandeur as no other ſubject was ever poſſeſſed of.

The King returned to England in October, and during his abſence, the Scotch King, James the fifth, with an army of 60,000 men, invaded Northumberland, and had taken Norham caſtle, and ſeveral other places; but the Earl of Surry marching againſt him, with 26,000 men, obtained a complete victory at Flodden muir. James fell in the engagement, as did alſo one Scotch Archbiſhop, two Biſhops, four Abbots, twelve Earls and ſeventeen Barons: but the Engliſh loſt not one perſon of note. Margaret, relict of James the fourth, and ſiſter to Henry, ſoon after her huſband's death, married Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus: ſhe had been appointed regent during the minority of her ſon, James the fifth, then two years old; but this ſhe loſt upon her ſecond marriage.

The war with France laſted but one campaign, and a peace was concluded, by three ſeveral treaties, ſigned on the 7th of Auguſt 1514, one of which regarded the marriage of Lewis the twelfth and the Princeſs Mary, which was ſolemnized in October; but Lewis, dying within three months, was ſucceeded by Francis the firſt. This Prince eſpouſing the ſame ſyſtem of politics, renewed and confirmed the alliance between the two crowns, and Tournay was reſtored to the French, in 1518, for 600,000 crowns.

On

On the 11th of February, 1516, Queen Catharine was delivered of a Princeſs named Mary, who was afterwards Queen of England. In the following year, the Pope ſollicited the chriſtian powers to join with him in a league againſt the Turks; and under pretence of maintaining the war againſt the Infidels, ſold indulgences, at a moderate price, to all who would purchaſe their ſalvation. Martin Luther, an Auguſtine monk, profeſſor of theology at Wirtemberg, wrote firſt againſt theſe indulgences, and at laſt againſt Papal authority, and other corruptions of the church of Rome. This gave riſe to the reformation, which in a ſhort time prevailed in Germany, and ſeveral other ſtates. King Henry wrote a book, entitled, *Of the ſeven ſacraments*, in defence of indulgences, Papal authority, &c. which procured to him and his ſucceſſors the title of Defender of the Faith, and Luther anſwered it.

In the year 1527, Henry renounced all claim to the crown of France for ever, for a perpetual penſion of 50,000 crowns a year, to be paid to him and his ſucceſſors. And in the ſame year, a very remarkable affair was ſet on foot, which accidentally paved the way for the reformation in England. King Henry, after having been married eighteen years to Queen Catharine, and having had three children by her, the youngeſt of which, the Princeſs Mary, was living, pretended to have ſome

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ſcruples of conſcience about the legality of this marriage with his brother's widow, and therefore applied to the Pope for a divorce. The Pope, though inclinable to favour the King's requeſt, dreaded offending the Emperor, whoſe aunt the Queen was, and uſed all his artifice to amuſe Henry and gain time. He commiſſioned Wolſey and Campejus, his two legates, to try the cauſe in England, but not to give ſentence without his commands in writing. The proceſs went on ſlowly; and the Pope, having ſettled his affairs with the emperor to his ſatisfaction, pulled off the maſk, and openly oppoſed the divorce. The cauſe was at laſt evocated to Rome, and the King cited to appear there by ſuch a day.

This delay of the legates, to bring the affair to a concluſion in England, was the principal occaſion of Wolſey's diſgrace. He was indicted upon the ſtatute of præmunire, the ſeals taken from him and given to Sir Thomas More, and his effects to a great value ſeized for the King's uſe. Dr. Thomas Cranmer, an able divine, and a favourer of Luther's doctrine, adviſed the King to have the opinion of foreign univerſities upon the divorce: his advice was gladly followed, and moſt univerſities were of opinion, that, as the marriage was repugnant to the law of God, it was therefore invalid.

In 1532, the King privately married Anne Boleyn, ſecond daughter of the Earl of Wiltſhire

ſhire and Ormond. In the year following, the convocation declared the marriage with Catharine void, and the ſentence of divorce was pronounced by Cranmer, now archbiſhop of Canterbury, on the 22d of May. The new Queen was crowned the 1ſt of June. Catharine died at Kimbolton the 18th of January 1536, in the fiftieth year of her age; and about this time Anne was delivered of a daughter, who was named Elizabeth, and was afterwards Queen of England.

In 1534, an act of Parliament paſſed, prohibiting the payment of the annates, or firſt fruits, for biſhopricks, to the See of Rome; and the year after, all appeals to Rome were forbidden: in ſhort, the King and Parliament now abjured the Pope's ſupremacy, and the King was declared ſupreme head of the church of England. Though the annihilation of Papal power in England, was perhaps one of the greateſt events that ever happened, yet the good effects of it were ſcarcely felt during this reign; for the King ſoon began to aſſume a tyrannic power: he enacted laws partial and oppreſſive, and put them in execution without mercy or remorſe. Papiſts and Proteſtants were indiſcriminately put to death, the firſt, for denying his ſupremacy, the other for what he was pleaſed to call Hereſy: for the King would always make his own belief the ſtandard for that of his ſubjects. But the abjuration of the Pope's authority, was not the only, though the firſt grand ſtep towards the Reformation.

formation. The monks declared themſelves open enemies to the King's ſupremacy. Henry, therefore, reſolved to ſuppreſs all monaſteries, and, in order to cover his deſign, appointed commiſſioners to enquire into the lives of the monks and nuns, giving Thomas Cromwell the authority of viſitor general. By this means, horrid ſcenes of lewdneſs and impiety were diſcovered, and a great number of abbots, priors and monks, threatned with the rigour of the law, were glad to aſſuage the pious rage of the King, with a ſurrender of their houſes.

In the year 1536, by an act of Parliament, all the minor monaſteries, to the number of three hundred ſeventy-ſix, under the value of two hundred pounds a year each, were converted to the King's uſe. No leſs than three ſucceſſive rebellions were on this occaſion raiſed by the the monks, and their devotees; but theſe were ſoon quelled by the King's forces, and the ringleaders put to death. Upon publication of the viſitor general's report, the populace were undeceived, and were unanimous to join in the extirpation of the authors of ſuch wicked impoſitions. Great quantities of images, and pretended relics of ſaints, were publickly burnt.

The total number of monaſteries ſuppreſſed were 643, colleges ninety, chanteries and free chapels 2374, and hoſpitals 110; and their yearly value was computed at 1,600000l. an immenſe ſum in thoſe days! beſides this, the

the plate, and all the valuable effects were confiſcated to the King. The abbey lands were ſold at eaſy rates, and part of them were appropriated to the foundation of the new biſhopricks of Cheſter, Gloceſter, Peterborough, Oxford, Briſtol, and Weſtminſter.

It was now about three years ſince the King's marriage with Anne Boleyn, when turning jealous of her, and being at the ſame time in love with Jane Seymour, accuſed her of a criminal familiarity with her own brother, the Earl of Rochford, and four of her domeſtics, who were all executed; and the Queen, being divorced by Cranmer, was alſo executed in the Tower, on the 19th of May 1536. The very next day, he married Jane Seymour, who died in childbed of Prince Edward, who ſucceeded to the throne. Anne's marriage, under pretence of a prior contract with the Earl of Northumberland, was annulled; and her daughter Elizabeth, and likewiſe Mary, the daughter of Catharine, were, by act of Parliament, declared illegitimate, and incapable of inheriting the crown.

In 1539, the popiſh party aimed a terrible blow at the Reformers, by an act paſſed in Parliament, deſervedly called the bloody ſtatute, which made it burning or hanging for any one to deny tranſubſtantiation, to maintain the neceſſity of communion in both kinds: that it was lawful for prieſts to marry, that vows of chaſtity may be broken, that private maſſes

maſſes are unprofitable, or that auricular confeſſion is not neceſſary to ſalvation.

In January 1540, the King, for political reaſons, married Anne of Cleves; but was divorced from her, about ſix months after, on pretence that his internal conſent was wanting. Henry's fifth wife was Catharine Howard, who, being accuſed of adultery, was beheaded on the 13th of February 1542. Ireland was at this time erected into a kingdom, and our Kings have ever ſince been ſtiled Kings of Ireland.

After the death of Queen Catharine, it was enacted to be high treaſon, not to diſcover a Queen's incontinence, and alſo to be high treaſon in any one to marry the King, if ſhe was not a virgin. But no woman daring to truſt his conſtruction of the act he had procured concerning a Queen's virginity, he was content to marry lady Catharine Parr, widow of Lord Latimer. This Queen was a great friend to the Reformation, which made the oppoſite party obtain an order from the King to commit her to the Tower, upon the accuſation of abetting Hereſy; but her engaging addreſs prevailed upon him to revoke the order, and thus baffled their deſigns.

In 1544, the King entered in a league with the Emperor againſt France, and laid ſiege to Boulogne, which ſurrendered on the 14th of September, in the ſame year: but the war

afterwards continuing without much ſucceſs, a treaty was concluded on the 7th of June 1547; and on the 29th of January following, the King died, in the fifty-ſixth year of his age, after a reign of thirty-ſeven years, and nine months, and was buried at Windſor, where he had founded a college for thirteen poor knights, and two prieſts, leaving his only ſon, Edward the ſixth, by his wife Jane Seymour, now nine years of age, his ſucceſſor.

Edward, the only ſon of Henry the eighth, was proclaimed King, on the 31ſt of January 1547, by the name of Edward the ſixth; and the next day, the late King's will being opened, it appeared, that Edward's majority was fixed to the age of ſixteen. The Earl of Hertford, uncle to the King, was, by the regency, appointed their preſident, with the title of Protector of the realm and governor to the King. Edward was crowned on the 20th of February; and the Parliament, meeting in November, confirmed all that the Protector had done, with regard to the ſuppreſſion of ſome groſs abuſes in the publick ſervice, and paſſed an act to aboliſh all private maſſes, and reſtore the cup to the laity; the bloody ſtatute was likewiſe repealed by this parliament. The Protector had in the mean time entered Scotland, with an army of 15000 foot, and 3000 horſe, in order to compel the Scots to make good a treaty of marriage concluded in the late reign, between the King and Mary the young Queen of Scots, only ſurviving child of

James the fifth: with this army he engaged the Scots, who were 30000 ſtrong, near Muſſelburgh, killed 14000 on the ſpot, and took 1500 priſoners, on the 10th of September 1547.

The Protector had hitherto purſued the ſcheme of reformation, with great ſucceſs; but in the year 1549, two formidable inſurrections were ſet on foot by the malecontents; one in Devonſhire, conſiſting of 10,000 men, was defeated by the King's forces, commanded by the Lord John Ruſſel: another in Norfolk, conſiſting of 20,000, was diſperſed by Dudley, Earl of Warwick: on account of theſe inſurrections, it was that Lords Lieutenants of counties were firſt appointed.

In the midſt of theſe diſtractions at home, the Scots had proceeded as far as Newcaſtle, and taken Broughty Caſtle from the Engliſh; and Henry the ſecond of France had invaded the territory of Boulogne, and laid ſiege to the city itſelf, which, by a treaty in the former reign, was to have been delivered up to the French, within eight years, for 2,000,000 of crowns of gold: but an end was put to this war the following year; Boulogne having been delivered up to the French for 400,000 golden crowns, and Edward having dropt his pretenſions to the Queen of Scotland.

In 1551, the Common Prayer-Book was eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, the marriage of the

the clergy was declared valid, and prayers for the dead were laid aſide; and in the beginning of the year 1553, the King fell into a dangerous conſumption, of which he died the 6th of July following, at Greenwich, in the ſixteenth year of his age, and the ſeventh year of his reign, and was buried in Weſtminſter abbey. He was a prince celebrated for the beauty of his perſon, the ſweetneſs of his diſpoſition, and the extent of his knowledge.

Mary, the daughter of King Henry the eighth, by Catharine of Spain, ſucceeded her brother Edward. Dudley Duke of Northumberland, a man of great power, had, in the former reign, married his ſon, Guilford Dudley, to lady Jane Grey, grand-daughter to Mary, Queen of France, and ſiſter to Henry the eighth; and had prevailed upon Edward to ſettle the crown on this lady, to the excluſion of Mary and Elizabeth, in hopes of bringing the ſucceſſion into his family. His party, upon the death of the late King, cauſed lady Jane Grey to be proclaimed Queen: however, Mary's party prevailing, ſhe became miſtreſs of the realm without any bloodſhed, and was crowned on the 1ſt of October 1553.

The Queen, who was a thorough bigot to popery, had nothing ſo much at heart as a reconciliation of the kingdom to the Pope; tho' ſhe promiſed to leave religion as ſhe found it, at the death of the former king; and her miniſtry's firſt care was to pack a parliament

that ſhould be favourable to their deſigns; and very ſiniſter methods were taken for this purpoſe. Although the proteſtants were much the moſt numerous in the kingdom, almoſt all the houſe of commons were Roman catholics: and in the houſe of Lords, the Queen had a great majority. This parliament immediately repealed the divorce of the Queen's mother, by which they a ſecond time declared Elizabeth illegitimate. An act paſſed prohibiting the diſturbing prieſts ſaying maſs, or breaking down images; another, repealing all the ſtatutes made in Edward's time, concerning religion. Several thouſand proteſtant clergymen were deprived of their preferments, and the Popiſh ſervice reſtored.

At this time, a marriage was projecting by the Emperor for his ſon Philip with Queen Mary, and the nation was ſo much averſe to this match, that even the houſe of commons, packed as it was, addreſſed the Queen againſt it: however the treaty was ſigned on the 12th of June 1554. An inſurrection happened ſoon after, of which this marriage was either the real or pretended cauſe, and which, as it was eaſily quelled, ſerved only to encreaſe the power of the court. The Duke of Suffolk's having a hand in this inſurrection haſtened the cataſtrophe of his innocent and pious daughter, the lady Jane Grey and her huſband, who were beheaded on the 12th of February, and nine days after, the Duke himſelf underwent the ſame

ſame fate: in the mean time, the Princeſs Elizabeth was confined in the Tower.

On the 29th of November, the grand work of reconciling the kingdom to the Pope was effected; and both houſes of parliament received abſolution on their knees. Popery being now fully re-eſtabliſhed, the ſpirit of it ſoon appeared in the moſt violent and bloody perſecution againſt the proteſtants; and before the end of the following year, no leſs than ſixty-ſeven perſons were burnt for hereſy. In the midſt of this bloody zeal, King Philip, growing weary of his Queen, left England on the 4th of September 1555, to the no ſmall mortification of the Queen. On the 21ſt of March 1556, the learned and pious Archbiſhop Cranmer was burnt at the ſtake, and the remainder of this year was one continued perſecution; eighty-five perſons periſhed in the flames, and the ſucceeding year ſeventy-nine proteſtants underwent the ſame fate. The magiſtrates growing now averſe to the perſecution, commiſſioners were appointed for that purpoſe, and they proceeded in the bloody buſineſs with all the diſpatch that the court and clergy could deſire. During the four years of this perſecution, upwards of three hundred loſt their lives in the flames, ſeveral died in priſon, and many were whipped and otherwiſe cruelly treated.

In the mean time, the Queen ſuffered herſelf to be ſeduced by Spaniſh counſels into a war with France; and though in this war, a

victory was obtained over the enemy at St. Quintin, ſhe had the misfortune to loſe Calais, in 1558, which this nation had been poſſeſſed of for upwards of two hundred years, and alſo Guiſnes and the caſtle of Hames, which were the only remains of the Engliſh conqueſts in France. The averſion of King Philip, together with the loſs of Calais, and other mortifications to which the Queen was afterwards expoſed, had ſuch an effect upon her conſtitution, that ſhe fell into a dropſy, which put a period to her life on the 17th day of November 1558, in the forty-third year of her age, and ſixth of her reign. She was buried in Weſtminſter Abby, and her funeral celebrated with a maſs of requieſce, according to the form of the church of Rome.

Elizabeth, daughter of Henry the eighth and Anne Boleyn, aſcended the throne on the 17th of November 1558, purſuant to the order of ſucceſſion ſettled by her father's will: as the act of parliament, by which Elizabeth was declared illegitimate had never been repealed, Mary Queen of Scots, grand-daughter to Margaret, Henry the eighth's eldeſt ſiſter, and Frances, Ducheſs of Suffolk, daughter to Mary, his youngeſt ſiſter might have pretended to the crown; and indeed the counſellors and miniſters of the late Queen, would have been glad to ſet her aſide, knowing her attachment to the reformation; but this was found impracticable, as the will of King Henry, which placed the deſcendants of Margaret the laſt in ſucceſſion,

ſucceſſion, was made in conſequence of an act of parliament. Beſides as Mary Queen of Scots was married to the Dauphin of France, there were good grounds to fear, that, by her ſucceeding to the crown, England would become a province of France, eſpecially as ſhe was as great a bigot to popery, of which the nation was now extremely tired, as the late Queen.

Queen Elizabeth began her reign at twenty-five years of age, and in the courſe of it ſhewed the moſt conſummate policy and ſkill in government. She was crowned on the 15th of January 1559, about 10 days after the parliament met, who reſtored the firſt-fruits and tenths to the crown, appointed public worſhip to be performed in the vulgar tongue, and reſtored the Queen to her right of ſupremacy, in all cauſes both civil and eccleſiaſtical, which gave riſe to the high commiſſion court. They alſo renewed and confirmed all the acts of Edward the ſixth concerning religion, paſſed the famous act of uniformity, and another act ſuppreſſing all the religious houſes, founded by Mary, and gave their lands and revenues to the crown. In ſhort, the reformation, which, with ſeveral interruptions, had been carrying on above thirty years, was at laſt firmly eſtabliſhed; and it may be obſerved, that of 9,400 beneficed clergymen in England, only 14 biſhops, 12 arch deacons, 15 heads of colleges, and about 80 parochial clergy, refuſed to comply,

ply, who were turned out, and their places ſupplied by proteſtants.

By this time the reformation had prevailed greatly in Scotland, and the proteſtants there had entered into an aſſociation, headed by James Stuart, afterwards Earl of Murray, the Queen's natural brother, to ſtand up in their own defence againſt the Roman catholics, who had the government in their hands, and were ſupported by France. The Queen of Scots and the Dauphin her huſband, had taken the title and arms of England; this raiſed the jealouſy of Elizabeth, who from that time looked upon Mary as a dangerous rival. Elizabeth, in 1560, entered into a treaty with the Scots malecontents; in purſuance of which ſhe ſent an army into Scotland, and by that means prevented the deſigns of her enemies, which were to turn their arms againſt Elizabeth, and ſet Mary upon the throne.

Mary, after the death of her huſband Francis the ſecond, left France, and arriving in Scotland in 1561, for a time dropped the title and arms of England; but Elizabeth inſiſting on her diſclaiming all pretenſions to them for the future, ſhe refuſed; and this was the ſource of perpetual animoſity between the two Queens. Before Mary's arrival the ſtates of Scotland had eſtabliſhed the proteſtant religion in that kingdom, by virtue of a patent from their Queen to James Stuart, enabling him, in her abſence, to take what meaſures he pleaſed for the good of the kingdom;

dom. In 1565 ſhe married Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, ſon to the Counteſs of Lenox, daughter of Margaret Queen of Scotland, by her ſecond huſband the Earl of Angus, by which means ſhe united the title of that family to the crown of England with her own. After this marriage, there was nothing but confuſion in Scotland: Darnley was a catholic, and Murray and others fearing this would endanger the reformation, were averſe to the match.

Mary, by this time, was more than ordinarily attached to one David Riccio, a Piedmonteſe of mean extraction; this man was firſt employed as a muſician at court, and afterwards ſo far inſinuated himſelf into the Queen's confidence, that he was appointed ſecretary for the French language, and in time became the chief favourite. This man being a papiſt, it is very probable, had ſome ſhare in perſuading the Queen to eſpouſe Darnley. However, Darnley at laſt grew jealous of Riccio, and this jealouſy was encreaſed by the averſion which the Queen expreſſed to her huſband; in conſequence of which, Riccio was aſſaſſinated in her preſence in 1566. The Queen was kept under a guard for ſome time, till feigning a fondneſs for her huſband, ſhe was releaſed; and ſoon after, the Earl of Bothwell became as much a favourite as Riccio had formerly been, whilſt her huſband was wholly neglected.

On the 15th of June 1566, ſhe was delivered of a Prince, named James, who ſucceeded to

to the crown of Scotland, and afterwards to that of England. Soon afterwards, in the beginning of the year 1567, Darnley being taken ill of a diſtemper, which ſome people thought the effects of poiſon, and lodged at a place called Kirkfield, on account of the air, was blown up with gunpowder, by the contrivance of Bothwell and Murray; and in a little time after, the Queen was married to Bothwell, whom all the world charged with this murder.

The murder of Darnley, and Queen Mary's marriage with Bothwell, ſerved greatly to weaken her party in England, which had proceeded ſo far as to influence both houſes of parliament; and, but for her late ſhameful conduct, might have given Elizabeth great uneaſineſs, at the ſame time that it was productive of conſiderable alterations in Scotland. The Scotch Earls of Argyle, Morton, Marr, Athol, Glencairn and others, were reſolved to bring the murderers to juſtice, and diſſolve Mary's marriage with Bothwell. To this end they raiſed forces, and at laſt obliged the Queen to ſurrender herſelf; upon which ſhe was confined under a guard at Edinburgh; but finding ſhe ſtill correſponded with Bothwell, they confined her in Lochleven caſtle. Upon this Bothwell fled to the Orkneys, turned pirate, and afterward eſcaped to Denmark, where he was impriſoned and loſt his ſenſes. Soon after Mary's impriſonment, the confederate Lords obliged her to reſign the crown in

in favour of her ſon, then about a year old, and Earl Murray was appointed regent: but the Queen having eſcaped from her confinement, formed a ſtrong party againſt the regent, and attempted to reſume her crown by force of arms; but being defeated in 1568, was forced to fly into England, whither ſhe had been invited by proteſtation of friendſhip, and promiſes of aſſiſtance from Queen Elizabeth, who, notwithſtanding, ordered her to be taken into cuſtody, as ſoon as ſhe entered England, and confined a priſoner.

In the mean time the courts of France and Spain, having come to a reſolution to extirpate the heretics, Elizabeth did not doubt, when they had accompliſhed their ends at home, they would turn their arms againſt her: ſhe therefore aſſiſted the Hugonuetes, as ſhe had done before.

Mary had ſeveral great men of the Queen's council in her party, who wiſhed either to have her on the throne of England, or declared ſucceſſor to Queen Elizabeth. They, therefore, entered into a conſpiracy againſt Cecil, ſecretary of ſtate, whoſe abilities and integrity were great obſtacles in their way; but Elizabeth, well acquainted with this miniſter's fidelity, fruſtrated their deſigns. The Duke of Norfolk, formerly a great favourite of Queen Elizabeth, having been concerned in this plot, was ſent to the Tower: his project was to have married the Queen of Scots, which was highly

highly pleaſing to the malecontents, as it is probable the Duke gave them hopes, not only of ſetting Mary on the throne, but of reſtoring popery.

In conſequence of this, the Earls of Northumberland and Weſtmoreland broke out into open rebellion, which the good policy of Elizabeth ſoon quelled. The Duke of Norfolk having been releaſed from the Tower, upon a promiſe to think no more of marrying Mary, was ſoon after detected in a correſpondence with Mary and her adherents for raiſing a rebellion againſt Elizabeth. On this diſcovery he was re-committed to the Tower, and beheaded in 1572. Theſe, and many other ſuch plots, furniſhed Queen Elizabeth with pretences for detaining Mary a priſoner.

The Proteſtants in the Low Countries had for ſome time been ſo cruelly treated by the Spaniards, who had now introduced the inquiſition, that they entered into a confederacy for the defence of their liberties; and Queen Elizabeth thought it good policy to aſſiſt them. In 1577, ſhe therefore lent them 100,000l. to enable them to carry on the war: next year ſeveral companies of volunteers, formed in England, went into the ſervice of the States, with the Queen's permiſſion; and ſome years afterwards, ſhe ſent over a conſiderable body of troops. The Queen's ſeaſonable aſſiſtance contributed not a little to the total defection

of

of the Seven Provinces from the dominion of Spain.

Queen Elizabeth did not aſſiſt the Proteſtants in France and the Netherlands without provocation: the Pope had by this time excommunicated her, and abſolved her ſubjects from their allegiance: the King of Spain, and the Duke of Guiſe were in a league with the Pope to invade England, dethrone Elizabeth, and ſet up Mary Queen of Scots in her room: many plots were carried on by the papiſts againſt her life, and many perſons were executed on that account. The Queen being threatened from all quarters, a general aſſociation was formed in England, to cut off every one that ſhould attempt any thing againſt her perſon or government. The parliament approved and confirmed this aſſociation, and forbid prieſts and jeſuits the kingdom, upon pain of death. Soon after, the Queen made an alliance with the King of Scotland, for their mutual defence, and the ſecurity of the proteſtant religion; and to be beforehand with the King of Spain, ſhe reſolved to carry the war into America; and in 1585, ſent Sir Francis Drake with twenty-one ſail of men of war, and land forces commanded by the Earl of Carliſle, who ſurprized and plundered St. Domingo, took Carthagena, burnt St. Antonio and St. Helena, in Florida, and returned home with great booty.

Mary's pretended title to the crown of England was always made a handle of by the

enemies of Elizabeth, for all their plots and conſpiracies; but their principal view was to reſtore popery both in England and Scotland; and as it was not eaſy to ſuppoſe that ſuch a revolution could be brought about, without the deſtruction of Elizabeth, it afforded her a plauſible pretence to ſacrifice Mary to her own ſafety.

In the year 1586, a confederacy was ſet on foot by the Pope, the King of Spain, the houſe of Guiſe, and the Iriſh, Scotch and Engliſh catholics, to invade England, in favour of Mary; and it having appeared by letters and other evidences, that Mary had a conſiderable ſhare in the conſpiracy, it was reſolved to proſecute her on the act of Parliament, which paſſed the preceding year, and rendered it capital to conſpire againſt the Queen's perſon or government. Accordingly forty Peers, with five Judges, or the major part of them, were commiſſioned to try, and paſs ſentence on Mary, commonly called Queen of Scots, daughter and heireſs of James the fifth, King of Scotland, and dowager of France. Thirty-ſix of theſe commiſſioners, arriving at Fotheringay Caſtle, in Northamptonſhire, where ſhe was confined, preſented her with a letter from the Queen, which Mary having read with great compoſure, endeavoured to vindicate herſelf of the charge. She obſerved, ſhe was an abſolute and independant princeſs, who would never ſtoop to any thing beneath royal majeſty; that the laws of England were unknown to her, and none durſt

be her advocate, nor did ſhe know who were to be her peers. The vice chamberlain, Hutton, at laſt prevailed upon her to ſubmit to the trial, and the court proceeded accordingly. She was charged with knowing, approving, and abetting the late conſpiracy; which charge ſhe denied, though at the ſame time ſhe owned ſhe had endeavoured to recover her liberty, and had ſollicited her friends for that purpoſe, but never attempted any thing againſt the life of Elizabeth. The written evidence of her two ſecretaries, being read againſt her, ſhe affirmed it was falſe; that ſhe could not be convicted but by her own words or hand-writting. She deſired to be confronted with her two ſecretaries, demanded a copy of her proteſt, an advocate to plead for her, and a hearing in full Parliament; all which, however equitable, were denied her. In ſhort, the evidences of her two ſecretaries were admitted; by which it appeared that Mary correſponded with the conſpirators, which being judged ſufficient to convict her, ſentence was pronounced againſt her on the 25th of October 1586. Four days after it was approved and confirmed by Parliament; and on the 7th of February following, this unfortunate princeſs was beheaded in the hall of Fotheringay caſtle. Queen Elizabeth pretended all along to be in ſuſpenſe, whether or not to put the ſentence in execution, and managed matters ſo that the Parliament preſſed her to it; and when ſhe ſigned the dead warrant, ſhe ordered ſecretary Davi on to keep it privately by him; but he ſhewed it to

the council, and they thought fit to haſten the execution: after which the Queen pretended great grief, and ordered her counſellors to be examined in the Star Chamber; but Daviſon only was fined in ten thouſand pounds, and impriſoned during the Queen's pleaſure. As it is evident the proceedings againſt Mary were irregular, the greateſt advocates for Queen Elizabeth can pretend to juſtify her conduct upon no other principle than that of ſelf-preſervation.

In 1588, Philip, King of Spain, made a moſt formidable attempt againſt the Queen and the Proteſtant religion. He had been long making vaſt preparations to invade England, which the Queen on the other hand had done every thing in her power to oppoſe. She fitted out a conſiderable fleet, under the command of Howard, Lord Effingham, and ſent a ſquadron of ſhips of war to the coaſt of Flanders, to hinder the Prince of Parma from joining the Spaniſh fleet, which was now commonly called the Invincible Armada, and conſiſted of 130 great ſhips, twenty caravels, and ten ſalves, having above 20,000 ſoldiers on board, with ſeamen, ammunition, &c. in proportion. This formidable armament ſailed from the river Tagus on the 29th of May: but being diſperſed by a ſtorm, rendezvouſed again at the Groine, from whence it ſailed July 12, and entered the Engliſh channel on the 19th: Howard ſuffered the Spaniards to paſs by him, following them cloſe until the 21ſt, when they had a running fight.

The

The Engliſh took ſome of their ſhips, after a pretty ſmart engagement on the 27th, when the Spaniſh fleet came to an anchor off Calais, in order to wait for the Duke of Parma with the land forces from Flanders. Here the Engliſh admiral ſent in among them eight fire ſhips, which ſo terrified them, that they cut their cables and put to ſea in confuſion; and the Spaniards endeavouring to return to their rendezvous, the Engliſh having been reinforced, and now conſiſting of 140 ſail, fell upon them, and took ſeveral of their ſhips; upon which the reſt endeavoured to make the beſt of their way home. In the channel the Engliſh took fifteen great ſhips and 4800 men, and afterwards on the coaſt of Ireland, ſeventeen ſhips, and 5400 men. Of this prodigious armament, no more than ſixty ſhips returned to Spain, the reſt being either taken or loſt by ſtorms.

In 1594, Roderigo Lopez, a Jew, who was the Queen's phyſician, two Portugueze, and Patrick Cullen, an Iriſhman, were executed for attempting to poiſon the Queen: as were Richard Williams and Edmund York, the next year, for attempting the ſame crime, on the promiſe of 40,000 florins. from the Spaniſh governors of the Netherlands.

In 1596, a fleet was ſent to the coaſt of Spain, under the command of Howard, the Earl of Eſſex, and Sir Walter Raleigh, which was attended with great ſucceſs: the Spaniards loſt two galleons, thirteen men of war, ele-

ven ſhips laden for the Indies, and thirteen others.

The Earl of Eſſex, a young nobleman of great abilities, had been for ſome time in high favour with the Queen, by whom he was raiſed to the firſt poſts under the crown, when he became ſo extremely proud, vain, and arrogant, that he often neglected the Queen's expreſs orders. In the mean time the Earl of Tyrone, encouraged by a promiſe of aſſiſtance from Spain, raiſed a rebellion in Ireland, in 1599, which Eſſex was ſent over to queſl: but this inſolent ſubject paid ſuch little regard to the Queen's inſtructions, that he was ſuſpected of ſome dangerous deſigns; and being charged with diſobedience of orders, he came over even without leave in order to juſtify himſelf. Being examined before the council in relation to his conduct in Ireland, it appeared ſo ſuſpicious, that he was committed to the cuſtody of the Lord Privy Seal: however, upon ſubmiſſion, this great favourite was ſet at liberty, but forbid the court. Provoked at this treatment, he had recourſe to ſuch violent meaſures, as rendered him ſuſpected of having a deſign upon the crown: he even went ſo far as to attempt an inſurrection in the city of London, at which the Queen and council were ſo alarmed, that orders were ſent to ſeize him: being taken into cuſtody, he was committed to the Tower, and tried by his peers on the 19th day of February, in the year 1601, when he made a full confeſſion of his conſpiracy,

and

and was condemned, and beheaded on the 25th of the ſame month. The Iriſh rebellion was quelled this year. Lord Mountjoy, the Queen's deputy, defeated Tyrone, and drove him from place to place, till at laſt he was obliged to caſt himſelf upon the Queen's mercy.

Queen Elizabeth did not long ſurvive her favourite Eſſex, but falling ſick in January 1603, died on the 24th of March following, in the 70th year of her age, and 40th of her reign.

Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, King James the ſixth, of Scotland was immediately proclaimed King of Great Britain: he was now in the 37th year of his age; being King of Scotland ever ſince he was a year old, upon the depoſition of his mother, who was daughter of James the fifth, ſon of James the fourth, by Margaret, eldeſt daughter of Henry the ſeventh of England; ſo that James was the neareſt relation in blood to Queen Elizabeth; though ſhe did not think fit to declare him her ſucceſſor till near her death. The council having ſent the Scotiſh King notice of his acceſſion to the crown, he ſet out from Edinburgh on the 5th of April, and on the 7th of May arrived in London. He was married to Anne, ſiſter to the King of Denmark, by whom he had three children at this time living, Henry, now nine years of age, Elizabeth and Charles.

Juſt

Juſt before the coronation of the King and Queen, which was performed on the 25th of July, a conſpiracy was diſcovered for raiſing Arabella Stuart, the King's couſin, to the throne: moſt of the authors of the conſpiracy were committed to priſon, among whom was Sir Walter Raleigh; and ſuch as had been releaſed, were ſtripped of their eſtates: but only two prieſts, of all concerned in the plot, were executed. This plot had not been long ſuppreſſed, when the King became expoſed to the moſt imminent danger, by one of the blackeſt conſpiracies that ever was hatched. The laws againſt popiſh recuſants had been put in execution, and their eſtates were ſequeſtered and aſſigned to courtiers, with whom they were forced to compound. Theſe ſeverities exaſperated them to ſuch a degree, that they devoted the whole Royal family to deſtruction, by blowing up the Houſe of Lords with gunpowder, at the opening of the ſeſſion of parliament, when the King, Queen, Prince of Wales, with all the lords ſpiritual and temporal, the judges, and the moſt conſiderable perſons in the kingdom, would be preſent.

For the execution of this infernal ſcene, Piercy, one of the conſpirators, hired a vault or cellar, immediately under the Houſe of Lords; and by means of Fawks, an old ſoldier, conveyed into it thirty barrels of gunpowder, artfully covering them with billets and faggots. The parliament was to have met upon the 5th of November 1605, on which day

day the conſpirators had reſolved to put their horrible ſcheme in execution; but a few days before, William Parker, Lord Monteagle, received a letter from one of the conſpirators, as is ſuppoſed, adviſing him not to go to the parliament houſe on the firſt day of the ſeſſion, becauſe the Parliament would ſuffer a terrible blow, without knowing from whom it ſhould come. James, having carefully peruſed this dark intimation, is ſaid to have gueſſed the deſign of the conſpirators and ordered an immediate ſearch to be made under the Parliament houſe, when Fawks, who was to have ſet fire to the train, was apprehended at the cellar door, about midnight, in a cloak and boots, with a dark lanthorn, tinder-box, and matches in his pocket, and the barrels of gunpowder diſcovered. Fawks was hardened enough to avow his deſign; but refuſed to diſcover his accomplices; however, upon being brought in ſight of the rack, he made a full diſcovery, and ſeven of the conſpirators, together with himſelf, were executed in January following: two jeſuits were hanged for concealing and abetting the plot, and two others of the conſpirators were killed in attempting to make their eſcape. For this great deliverance, the parliament appointed the 5th of November, to be obſerved annually as a day of thankſgiving.

In 1610, Prince Henry was created Prince of Wales; this year a proclamation was iſſued for baniſhing all jeſuits and prieſts out of the kingdom,

kingdom, and forbidding all recuſants to come within ten miles of the court. In the month of October, 1612, Frederick the fifth, Elector Palatine, arrived in England, in order to eſpouſe the Princeſs Elizabeth, and was entertained with great magnificence: but in the midſt of theſe rejoicings, the nation was overwhelmed with ſorrow, by the death of Henry, Prince of Wales, the hope of the nation, on the 6th of November, in the nineteenth year of his age: this Prince is celebrated by hiſtorians, as one of the moſt promiſing Princes that ever any country produced, and died univerſally regretted.

The marriage of the Princeſs with the Elector Palatine, having been put off for ſome time, on account of Prince Henry's death, was at laſt ſolemnized, on the 14th of February 1613; on which occaſion there was a continued courſe of entertainments, till April, when that illuſtrious pair ſet out for Germany.

Soon after this, the King inſtituted the order of Knights Baronets, a ſpecies of nobility between a baron and a knight, to deſcend as an hereditary title; for which dignity each perſon paid 1095 l. He alſo created a certain number of Knights of Nova Scotia, who likewiſe purchaſed their diſtinction.

In 1616, Prince Charles, now the King's only ſon, was created Prince of Wales; and the King, being deſirous of marrying him to the

the Infanta Maria, daughter of Philip the third, King of Spain, became a dupe to that court, which influenced all his meaſures both at home and abroad, to the detriment of the Proteſtant cauſe, and the contempt of him and his government.

King James, hating the Puritans, endeavoured to reduce the church of Scotland, which was Preſbyterian, to a conformity with the church of England; with this view he took a journey to Scotland, in 1617, and required the Scots to admit of certain articles, which were deſigned to pave the way to their further conformity. In this affair he met with great oppoſition, as well from the miniſters, as from the people, and that oppoſition laid the foundation of the ill blood, which, in the ſucceeding reign, produced ſuch fatal conſequences. In his return from Scotland, in oppoſition to the ſcruple of the Puritans upon that head, he publiſhed a performance, entitled, The Book of Sports, re-commending all diverting exerciſes on a Sunday, after divine ſervice, which gave offence to ſeveral others, beſides Puritans, as it was enjoined to be read in all churches.

About the ſame time, Sir Walter Raleigh, after a twelve years impriſonment in the Tower, was ſet at liberty; and, in Auguſt 1617, appointed commander of a ſquadron of men of war, and ſent to the river Oroonoko, in South America, in queſt of a gold mine, which he gave the King to underſtand he knew of: but

but the expedition proving unſucceſsful, and Sir Walter attacking ſome of the Spaniſh ſettlements in Terra Firma, he was, at the inſtigation of the Spaniſh Ambaſſador, executed in virtue of his former ſentence, for high treaſon, on the 19th of October 1618. The next year queen Anne, the King's conſort, died of a dropſy, in the forty-ſixth year of her age.

About the ſame time an affair happened abroad, in which King James was unavoidably concerned, and which, from the meaſures he took in relation to it, deprived him totally of the affection and eſteem of his people, and brought him into great contempt among foreigners. The rights and privileges of the Proteſtants in Germany and Bohemia had for ſome time been encroached upon by the Emperor Matthias, who procured his couſin Ferdinand of Auſtria to be crowned King of Bohemia.

Upon Matthias's death, Ferdinand was elected Emperor; but the States of Bohemia, who were moſtly Proteſtants, refuſed to own him as their ſovereign; and, upon the 5th of September 1619, choſe Frederick, Elector Palatine, King James's ſon-in-law, for their King. In conſequence of this meaſure, a war enſued, in which Frederick loſt not only the crown of Bohemia, but was deprived of his hereditary dominions, whilſt James ſtood neuter, and in vain endeavoured to accommodate matters by negotiations, which were attended

with

with no manner of effect: nor was he more active in recovering the Palatinate, than in preſerving it.

The King having called a parliament in 1621, great diſputes aroſe between him and the Houſe of Commons, which terminated in an open breach. Upon this, he diſſolved the parliament by proclamation, and committed ſeveral of their members to priſon; and that oppoſition between the King and parliament produced two parties, who, in after times, came to be diſtinguiſhed by the names of Tories and Whigs. The King being ſtill intent on the Spaniſh match, Prince Charles, with the Marquis of Buckingham, embarked for Spain, and arriving at Madrid the 6th of March 1622, articles were agreed on; but the match being ſoon afterwards abruptly broke off, the Prince returned to England without the Infanta in 1623.

The ſame year a parliament was called, and the proceedings of the Spaniſh match being laid before them, the Marquis of Buckingham's conduct in relation to it was approved of; and the parliament voted the King a ſupply, to declare war againſt Spain and the Emperor. In the mean time, a treaty of marriage was ſet on foot between the Prince, and Henrietta Maria of France, daughter to Henry the fourth, and ſiſter to Lewis the thirteenth: articles were ſigned on the 10th of November 1624: but the King died before the marriage

was conſummated, on the 27th of March 1625, in the fifty-ninth year of his age, after a reign of two and twenty years in England.

Immediately after the deceaſe of James, his ſon Charles, then in the twenty-fifth year of his age, was proclaimed King. His marriage with Henrietta Maria of France was ſolemnized by proxy at Paris, on the 11th of May 1625: about the middle of June, the new Queen arrived in England; and the King and Queen were crowned at Weſtminſter the 2d of February 1626. The bad policy of James was in nothing ſo conſpicuous as in quarrelling with his parliament. This was chiefly owing to his extravagant notions of the royal prerogative, which he carried higher than perhaps any of his predeceſſors. It brought many inconveniencies on himſelf; and happy had it been for Charles, and the nation, if he had not trod too much in the ſteps of his father: but, being bred in the ſame high notions of regal power, he took larger ſtrides towards arbitrary government than even his father had done; by which meaſures, the party which ſided with the people againſt the court, grew every day more formidable; men's paſſions on both ſides were heated, mutual diſtruſt and jealouſy took place, and religion mixing in the quarrel, the patrons of liberty made their advantage of it, till Enthuſiaſm, which gains ſtrength from oppoſition, not only overturned the religious, but the civil conſtitution of the country.

The

The Duke of Buckingham, who was ſuch a favourite with James, that from a private gentleman he raiſed him to the high rank he was now in, and who for ſeveral years had ruled with abſolute ſway, and diſpoſed of all places and preferments, was now in a ſtill higher degree of favour with Charles. He had artfully impoſed upon the laſt parliament, by a ſpecious account of his conduct in relation to the Spaniſh affair; but when that affair was better underſtood by the nation in general, and his miſrepreſentations appeared, through which the nation was drawn into an ill-timed war, he became more odious than ever; and the parliament, that met the beginning of this reign, impeached him of high crimes, and uſed their utmoſt efforts to remove him from the King's preſence and councils; however Charles being reſolutely fixt to ſtand by him, quarrelled with his parliaments, rather than he ſhould part with his favourite, which was the principal grounds of the heats and animoſities between the King and his people in the beginning of this reign.

The Duke, in the mean time, to anſwer ſome private intereſt of his own, as is ſuppoſed, drew his maſter into an unſeaſonable rupture with France, while he was ſtill engaged in a war againſt the Houſe of Auſtria, for the recovery of the Palatinate, and in continual want of money from his conſtant quarrels with his parliaments, who would grant him no ſupplies, but upon condition of redreſſing the

grievances they complained of: this put Charles upon arbitrary and illegal methods of raiſing money, which rendered him extremely unpopular; and he became now ſtill more ſo, by truſting the management of the French war to the Duke, who was made Admiral of the fleet, conſiſting of above 100 ſail, and land forces, to the number of 7000 men, deſtined to act againſt France. With this armament, he ſet ſail from Portſmouth upon the 27th of June 1627, and appeared off Rochelle upon the 20th of July, under colour of relieving that place, which was threatned with a ſiege; but the inhabitants of Rochelle, who knew nothing of the deſign of the armament, ſhut their gates, for fear of a ſurprize: upon which the Duke ſailed for the iſle of Rhe, where he landed his troops; but managed matters ſo ill, that he was forced to reimbark with the loſs of ſeveral thouſand men,

The King having fitted out another fleet to relieve Rochelle, which was now actually beſieged by the French, the Duke of Buckingham aſſumed the command of it: but, while he was at Portſmouth ready to embark, he was aſſaſſinated by one John Felton, formerly a Lieutenant in a regiment of foot, who ſtabbed him to the heart, ſo that he fell dead upon the ſpot. It does not appear that Felton was ſet on, or had any accomplice; for he declared, before his death, that he was moved to it from a perſuaſion only that the Duke was an enemy to his country. He did not attempt to eſcape; ſo

ſo that being ſeized and brought priſoner to London, he was tried, and executed at Tyburn, and his body carried afterwards to Portſmouth, and there hung in chains. The fleet however ſailed for Rochelle, but could not approach the town; ſo that the poor inhabitants, having no hopes of relief, ſurrendered to the French King's mercy, in preſence of the Engliſh fleet, which, ſoon after the place was taken, returned home. In 1629, a peace was concluded on between France and England, which was followed the next year by a peace with Spain.

On May the 29th 1630, was born Prince Charles; and in 1633, Prince James, who was immediately created Duke of York. In 1632, died Frederick the unfortunate Elector Palatine, and King of Bohemia, Charles's brother-in-law. Endeavours had been uſed to reſtore him to his dominions, but in vain. Prince Charles, the Elector's eldeſt ſon, ſucceeded to his father's claims, and ſhortly after came over with Prince Rupert his brother, to his uncle's court in England.

In May 1633, the King took a journey into Scotland, where being arrived, he was crowned at Edinburgh, and held a parliament, in which he took ſome ſteps towards eſtabliſhing epiſcopacy in that kingdom; and from that meaſure his ruin may be ſaid to have commenced. He returned to London in July, and in oppoſition to the Puritans, ſupported wakes and revels on Sundays, and renewed and confirmed his fa-

ther's proclamation, for permitting recreations and diverſions on a Sunday after divine ſervice. In 1637, he ſent down to Scotland a book of canons, and then a liturgy, with ſtrict orders to have it read in the churches: but it was no ſooner attempted to be read in the churches at Edinburgh, than the people broke out into the moſt tumultuous noiſe; and when the biſhop of Edinburgh, who was to have preached at St. Giles's church, in that city, mounted the pulpit, in order to appeaſe the people, he was ſaluted with a ſhower of ſtones and ſticks, by which his life was endangered; the chancellor and judges were treated with the ſame diſreſpect and inſolence, and when the magiſtrates of the city found means to expel the outrageous part of the people, the ſervice was ſtill interrupted by the enraged multitude in the ſtreet, who continued to revile the ſervice, and threaten the biſhop, who, when he came forth, with great difficulty eſcaped aſſaſſination.

The King, upon intelligence of theſe proceedings, ſent down proclamations to pacify the Scots, but they proteſted againſt them, as deſigned only to enſnare them; and in 1638, erected committees at Edinburgh, to manage the affairs of Scotland: one conſiſted of the nobility, another of the gentry, a third of the burghers, and a fourth of the miniſters; and from theſe committees proceeded the famous ſolemn league and covenant for the maintenance of their religion from all innovations, ſubſcribed by almoſt the whole Scotch nation.

A

A general aſſembly being at laſt ſummoned to meet at Glaſgow, the High Commiſſioner, finding that it was impoſſible to manage them, diſſolved them in the King's name; notwithſtanding which, they continued ſitting by their own authority, and paſſed ſeveral acts againſt the innovations.

The King was no ſooner informed of the preſumption of the General Aſſembly in Scotland, than he reſolved to reduce them by force of arms. He ſummoned the nobility to attend him at York, upon the 1ſt of April 1639, and to bring what forces they could draw together; each county was likewiſe obliged to furniſh a certain number of troops, by which means the King ſoon found himſelf at the head of above 20,000 men. The Scots, in the mean time, prepared for their defence, but relied more upon their friends in England, who, being all the puritans and the people diſaffected to the government, were by far the greateſt part of the people in the kingdom. In the mean time, the King ordered the Earl of Holland to march into Scotland with 3000 foot, and 1000 horſe; upon this Leſley, the Scotch General, ſent a body of forces to oppoſe his march: at the appearance of which he thought fit to retreat. The Scotch General now approached the borders of England with 12,000 men; but at laſt, the Scots ſent an humble petition to the King, beſeeching him to appoint commiſſioners to treat of a peace, which his Majeſty having conſented to, articles of pacification were concluded

cluded on, June the 17th; but these articles were agreed to only to gain time: for the very next year it was resolved in council, to reduce the Scots to their duty by force of arms: however, as the King was in want of money, he was advised to call a parliament.

The parliament, having met April the 13th 1640, refused to concern themselves with the affairs of Scotland, and immediately took into consideration the many petitions presented them from several counties against grievances, which they insisted should be redressed, before they would grant the subsidies required for carrying on the war against the Scots. Upon the report of these proceedings the King dissolved them, after they had sat but six weeks; and set out for York, where the greatest part of his army lay encamped, on intelligence that the Scotch army, consisting of 22,000 men, under General Lesley, had passed the Tweed. In the mean time, Lord Conway, who commanded the vanguard of the King's army at Newcastle, having drawn out 3000 foot, and 1500 horse, to dispute the passage of the Tyne with the Scots, who were still advancing southward, was driven from his post by General Lesley, and obliged to retreat with the loss of several hundred men; upon which the Scots entered Newcastle, seized the King's magazines of arms and ammunition, and in two days after made themselves masters of Durham.

Now

Now the Scots publiſhed a manifeſto, in which they endeavoured to ſhew that their motives for entering England was no quarrel they had with the Engliſh nation, but only to defend themſelves againſt ſome evil miniſters who directed the King's councils. In this exigency, his Majeſty ſummoned a general council of the Peers to meet him at York, where he was adviſed to call a parliament, as the only means to redreſs the grievances of the nation, and remove the dangers that threatned both the King and the ſtate; upon which it was reſolved to ſummon a parliament for the 3d of November following. At the ſame time, it was reſolved to ſend commiſſioners to treat with the Scots about a peace; and the commiſſioners being met at Rippon, upon the 1ſt of October, it was immediately agreed that there ſhould be a ceſſation of arms, and that the Scots might remain in poſſeſſion of Northumberland and the biſhoprick of Durham, till the reſt of the treaty, which was adjourned to London, ſhould be agreed on.

The parliament being met, the King in his ſpeech particularly deſired them to find means for driving the Scots out of England: but, inſtead of complying with his Majeſty's deſire, the Houſe of Commons reſolved that 300,000 l. ſhould be raiſed for ſupplying the Scotch army. The Houſe then proceeded vigorouſly againſt the authors of the grievances they complained of; the Earl of Stafford was impeached of high treaſon, and committed to the tower.

The

The Scotch commiſſioners having exhibited a long charge againſt Archbiſhop Laud, as the author of all their troubles, he was voted a traitor by the Houſe of Commons, and being taken into cuſtody, was alſo committed to the Tower; and Secretary Windebank and Lord Keeper Finch, being likewiſe voted traitors, eſcaped over ſea. About this time, the King acquainted the parliament with the marriage of the Princeſs Mary his eldeſt daughter, with the Prince of Orange. King William the Third was the iſſue of this marriage.

On May the 1ſt 1641, the Houſe of Commons turned the impeachment againſt the Earl of Stafford into a bill of attainder, becauſe there was not legal evidence to convict him before the Houſe of Lords; where the bill againſt him having paſſed, at the inſtance of the Commons, received the Royal aſſent by commiſſion; and the Earl was beheaded on Tower-hill on the 22d of May. Bills were alſo paſſed for taking away the Star-chamber and High Commiſſion courts, and for a pacification between England and Scotland; and the Houſe of Commons being informed that the army was practiſed upon, in order to bring them up to London and over-awe their proceedings, they unanimouſly entered into a ſolemn proteſtation to ſtand by the religion, laws and liberties of the kingdom; in which proteſtation the Lords joined ſome time after, and then it was impoſed on the whole nation. This alſo gave riſe to a bill for the continuance of parliament,

liament, which alſo received the Royal aſſent, and in which it was enacted, that the parliament was not to be diſſolved, prorogued or adjourned, but by an act of parliament.

On the 10th of Auguſt the King ſet out for Scotland, where he gave the Royal aſſent to all the acts the parliament of that kingdom preſented to him; and on October the 23d, whilſt the King was ſtill in Scotland, there was a moſt dreadful inſurrection in Ireland, when the natives, or old Iriſh, roſe in all parts of the iſland, and moſt inhumanly murdered above 40,000 Engliſh and Scotch proteſtants, without diſtinction of age, ſex, or condition. The inſurgents, unhappily for the King, pretended that they had his authority for what they did, and that their deſign was to oppoſe the proceedings of the puritanical parliament in England, which made a ſtrong impreſſion on the minds of ſuch as were already not well affected to the King.

About the end of November, the King returned from Scotland; and upon the 27th of December, the Houſe of Commons, conſidering the frequent obſtacles they met with in the Houſe of Lords, from the oppoſition of the biſhops to their meaſures, paſſed a bill for taking away the biſhops votes in parliament. About the ſame time, the apprentices of London, with many others from that city, came in a body to Weſtminſter, and preſented a petition to the King, Lords, and Commons, againſt

againſt papiſts, jeſuits, and prelates; and complaining of plots and conſpiracies againſt the parliament; and great numbers flocked about the parliament houſe, crying, *No Biſhops*. Theſe tumults continuing for ſome days, ſeveral perſons offered their ſervice as a guard to his Majeſty: and many ſkirmiſhes happened between them and the multitude, in which ſome citizens were wounded, and which greatly heightened the animoſity between the two parties. The tumults rendering it unſafe for the biſhops to attend their ſeats in parliament, twelve of them met, and drew up a proteſtation againſt all laws, orders, votes, and determinations that had paſſed ſince the 27th of December, or ſhould thereafter paſs, during their forced abſence from the houſe; at which the commons were ſo much offended, that they impeached the biſhops of high treaſon, and committed them to the Tower: upon this the Lords paſſed the bill for taking away their votes, and in February that bill received the royal aſſent.

The King, while in Scotland, having diſcovered more fully the treaſonable correſpondence between the Scots and ſome members of the Engliſh parliament, ordered the Lord Kimbolton to be apprehended, together with Mr. Pym, Mr. Hampden, Mr. Holles, Sir Arthur Haſlerig, and Mr. Strode; upon which the commons reſolved, that whoever ſhould attempt to ſeize any of their members, or their papers, they ſhould ſtand upon their defence.

The

The King thereupon went to the houſe of commons himſelf, and demanded the five members already mentioned: but they had ſlipped out, juſt before the King came in, upon which the King iſſued a proclamation for apprehending them, and the ſame day the commons voted the King's meaſure a breach of privilege, and adjourned for ſeven days, ordering a committee to ſit in the mean time at Guildhall.

While the committee of the houſe of commons ſat at Guildhall, a guard was raiſed in the city for the protection of the five members; and the mob growing very dangerous, the King removed with his family from Whitehall to Hampton court; from thence to Windſor, and at laſt to York. In the mean time, the ſheriffs and train bands of London, with an armed multitude, carried the obnoxious members in triumph to their ſeats at Weſtminſter, and the ſeamen and watermen, with above one hundred armed veſſels, with field pieces and colours, as prepared for action, advanced at the ſame time up the river Thames, from London bridge to Weſtminſter, for which they received the thanks of the houſe of commons.

Two days after the King departed from Whitehall, he ſent a meſſage to both houſes, to acquaint them, that he would wave his proceedings againſt the five members, and make it his buſineſs to preſerve the privileges of his parliament; and ſome days afterwards, on the 2d of February 1642, he offered a gene-

ral pardon. In the mean time, the houſe of commons ordered a guard to block up the Tower, and ſent Sir John Hotham to take poſſeſſion of Hull, where there was a great magazine of arms and ammunition, and ordered him to keep it for the parliament.

About the end of May, the parliament, having reſolved to ſettle the militia of the kingdom, independant of the King, publiſhed their ordinance for that purpoſe, and commanded all perſons to be obedient to it; about the ſame time, the King iſſued a proclamation to forbid the execution of the parliament's ordinance; and the parliament, in their turn, publiſhed a declaration forbidding all perſons to obey the King's proclamation.

Now both houſes reſolved, that the kingdom ſhould be forthwith put in a poſture of defence, and ordered the Earl of Northumberland, the lord high admiral, to equip the Royal navy, and be ready to put to ſea in their ſervice. They afterwards proceeded to muſter the militia of the city of London, conſiſting of 12,000 men, and ſent orders to the reſpective lieutenants of the counties to muſter their militia, purſuant to the ordinance of parliament.

On the 23d of April, the King appeared before Hull with 300 horſe, in order to ſecure his magazines there, but was denied admittance by Sir John Hotham, who held it for the

the parliament. Now his Majeſty thinking it neceſſary to have a guard for the defence of his perſon, raiſed a troop of horſe, the command of which was given to the Prince of Wales; upon which the parliament voted, that whoever ſhould ſerve or aſſiſt his Majeſty ſhould be deemed traitors; and on the 26th of May, they publiſhed a declaration, intimating that the ſovereign legiſlative power was lodged in both houſes, and that the King had not ſo much as a negative.

Now both ſides prepared openly for war. On the 15th of June the King granted ſeveral commiſſions of array for levying troops. On the 12th of July, the parliament voted that an army ſhould be raiſed, and the command of it given to Robert Devreux Earl of Eſſex; and on the 22d of Auguſt the King ſet up his ſtandard at Nottingham.

On the 9th of September, the Earl of Eſſex ſet out from London to put himſelf at the head of the parliament army, which was aſſembled at Northampton, and amounted to 16,000 men; and the King, not thinking himſelf ſafe at Nottingham, marched to Shrewſbury, where he found his army increaſed to 14,000 men.

The firſt rencounter in this war, was at Powick bridge, near Worceſter, between Prince Rupert, the King's nephew, who was detached to guard a convoy of money and plate from

Oxford, and Colonel Sandys, ſent by the Earl of Eſſex to take poſſeſſion of Worceſter. In this engagement, Colonel Sandys was killed, and his detachment defeated: however, the Earl of Eſſex advancing the next day, took poſſeſſion of Worceſter, and ſoon afterwards ſecured Gloceſter and Briſtol for the parliament.

On Sunday the 23d of October, about two in the afternoon, both armies engaged at Edgehill, near Keynton, in Warwickſhire, where the King's horſe beat the enemy's cavalry out of the field: but purſuing them too far, left the Royal infantry expoſed to the enemy's foot, who were more numerous: however they maintained their ground, till night parted them, when both ſides claimed the victory.

Some days after this battle, the King took Banbury caſtle, and about the ſame time the Queen landed at Burlington bay, in Yorkſhire, from Holland, whither the King ſent her about ſix months before, to buy up arms and ammunition.

Soon after this, ſeveral ſmart ſkirmiſhes happened in different parts of the nation, in which ſometimes one ſide had the better, and ſometimes the other; and it would be foreign to the plan laid down for this work, to mention the ſeveral battles, ſieges, rencounters and other particulars of this long and bloody civil war.

The

The King gaining ground upon the parliament, the two houſes came to a reſolution, to invite the Scots to their aſſiſtance, who promiſed to invade England, on condition that the parliament would reduce the church of England to a conformity with that of Scotland, by the extirpation of prelacy or epiſcopacy; and that the ſolemn league and covenant ſhould be ſworn to, and ſubſcribed, by both kingdoms.

The two houſes agreeing to theſe articles, the ſolemn league and covenant was ſent into England, and ſworn to and ſubſcribed by all the members of parliament, and by the aſſembly of divines then ſitting at Weſtminſter, to conſider of a reformation in the church.

In conſequence of this treaty, a Scotch army conſiſting of 18,000 foot, and 3,000 horſe, under the command of the Earl of Leven, paſſed the Tyne the 28th of February 1643-4; and joining the parliament army under General Fairfax, were attacked upon the 2d of July by Prince Rupert, who was at length, after an obſtinate and bloody battle, totally routed with the loſs of 10,000 royaliſts. This victory was, in a great meaſure, owing to the valour and good conduct of Oliver Cromwell, member of parliament for the town of Cambridge, who, from the beginning of the war, had been very active and vigilant for the parliament, and was from a captain now raiſed to the rank of lieutenant general.

On the other hand, the parliament army in the weſt was almoſt ruined. In the mean time, the Queen, having been delivered at Exeter of the Princeſs Henrietta, withdrew into France; and about the ſame time, Charles Lewis, the Elector Palatine, brother to Prince Rupert, came to London to reſide there under the protection of the parliament, who allowed him an honourable penſion.

On the 4th of January 1644-5, an ordinance paſſed both houſes for laying aſide the common prayer book, and eſtabliſhing the directory, which had been drawn up in the aſſembly of divines; and thus the preſbyterian worſhip was appointed in the church of England: the ſame day a bill of attainder having paſſed both houſes againſt archbiſhop Laud, he was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 10th of the ſame month.

About this time a religious ſect ſtarted up, called the independants, from their diſclaiming any dependency on churches, and renouncing all forms of church government, as well preſbyterian as epiſcopal. They were at firſt united with the preſbyterians, but now acted ſeparately, and at laſt pulled down the preſbyterians, who ſought only to humble and reſtrain the royal prerogative; whereas, the independants wanted to aboliſh monarchy, and introduce democracy. This ſect was compoſed of ſuch fanatics, as gave a looſe to the wildeſt

reveries of enthuſiaſm, and was headed by Oliver Cromwell. The firſt ſtep which this party took, was to get over the army, in order to which it was neceſſary to have it new modelled; and this was brought about principally by Cromwell's means, under pretence of putting a more ſpeedy end to the war. At the ſame time, he and his aſſociates took advantage of the complaints againſt the partiality of the parliament, in engroſſing all places of truſt and profit to themſelves, to get an ordinance paſſed for excluding all members of parliament from all offices civil and military; which was called the ſelf-denying ordinance, by virtue of which, ſuch officers in the parliament's army as were of either houſe, and generally favoured the preſbyterians, were removed from their commands, and ſuch put in their places, as were friends to the independants. Sir Thomas Fairfax was nominated general of the army, who was indeed a preſbyterian himſelf; but was entirely governed by the counſels of Cromwell, the only member of parliament who kept his poſt in the army.

On the 14th of June, the royal army, commanded by the King in perſon, and the parliament army commanded by Fairfax, came in ſight of one another, near a village called Naſeby, in Northamptonſhire, when a battle enſued, which decided the quarrel between the King and the parliament. Prince Rupert, who commanded the King's right wing, gave

the

the firſt charge, and attacked the left wing of the parliament army, commanded by colonel Ireton, ſon-in-law of Oliver Cromwell, with ſuch impetuoſity, that he ſoon broke them, and purſued them as far as the village: but in his return, miſpent his time in an attempt to ſeize their park of artillery; while Cromwell, who commanded the parliament's right wing, charged ſo furiouſly on the King's left wing, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, that he broke them after an obſtinate diſpute. Then joining Fairfax, he charged the King's foot in flank, who had obliged the parliament infantry to give ground, with ſuch vigour as they could not reſiſt; ſo that they were immediately routed and diſperſed. By this time, Prince Rupert had rejoined the King, but not being able to rally their broken troops, his Majeſty was forced to quit the field, and abandon the victory to his enemies, who took all his cannon, baggage, and above five thouſand priſoners.

Soon after this great victory, the whole kingdom was ſubjected to the obedience of the two houſes; and the King having in the mean time fled from Oxford, upon intelligence that Fairfax was advancing to reduce that city, threw himſelf into the hands of the Scotch army, then lying before Newark, on the 6th of May 1646. The Scots, hearing that Fairfax had made a motion to the north, retired with his Majeſty to Newcaſtle, from whence the King ſent meſſages to the parliament, with propoſitions

propoſitions for an accommodation: but the total abolition of epiſcopacy, which the parliament inſiſted on, he would never conſent to.

Now the two houſes appointed a committee, to treat with the Scotiſh commiſſioners about diſpoſing of the King's perſon; at length, it was agreed, that the Scots ſhould have 400,000 l. for the arrears due to them, one moiety to be paid before their army left England, and the other at ſtated times, and that the King ſhould be delivered up to commiſſioners, appointed by the parliament of England; and theſe conditions being executed, on the 30th of January 1646-7, the Scotiſh army marched for Scotland, and the King was conducted to Holmby houſe, in Northamptonſhire.

Hitherto the preſbyterians and independants acted in concert againſt their ſovereign; but now their mutual animoſity began to appear. The parliament and the city of London were moſtly preſbyterians, and the army almoſt wholly independants. The parliament therefore were for diſbanding the army; but the army reſolved not to diſband, or ſeparate, till ſuch a ſettlement was made as they deſired. Theſe animoſities increaſing, the army apprehended, that the parliament, in order to cruſh them, would cloſe with the King; wherefore, they ſent a detachment of fifty horſe, under the command of cornet Joyce, to take the King from

ſtom the parliament's commiſſioners at Holmby, which he reſolutely effected, on the 4th of June, 1647, and next day arrived at Newmarket, with the royal captive, who was treated with great reſpect, by the officers of the army.

On the 16th of June, the agitators, as they were called, for the army, drew up a charge of treaſon againſt eleven members of the houſe of commons, the chief of the preſbyterian party, for betraying the cauſe of the parliament, in endeavouring to break and deſtroy the army, upon which thoſe members thought fit to withdraw. The parliament, having ſettled the militia of London, at the requeſt of the citizens, in the hands of the preſbyterians, were now ſo over-awed by the army, that they repealed that ordinance; which was no ſooner done, than on the 26th of July, a great multitude of the populace aſſembled at Weſtminſter, and, in a tumultuous manner demanded, that the laſt ordinance touching the militia ſhould be annulled; that the eleven members, who had been accuſed, ſhould be recalled, and that the King ſhould come to London; and they committed ſuch outrages, while the two houſes were ſitting, as terrified the members into a compliance with their demands; but the army marching to London, about the end of Auguſt, obliged the parliament to revoke all that had been done ſince the 26th of July; and from this time, the two houſes were totally governed by the army.

The

The King, who, ſince in the hands of the army, had been obliged to attend all their motions, was, on the 26th of Auguſt, when they approached to the city of London, conducted to Hampton Court, from whence, having reaſon to believe his life in danger, he eſcaped on the 13th of November, to the iſle of Wight; being perſuaded to truſt himſelf with Colonel Hammond, the governor of that iſland, who immediately lodged him in Carifbrook caſtle; and then ſent advice to the parliament of his Majeſty's being in ſafe cuſtody.

His Majeſty being reduced to this melancholy ſituation, his friends began to ſtir for him in ſeveral parts of the kingdom, about the beginning of the year 1648, and were joined by the preſbyterians from their averſion to the independants: the inſurgents were encouraged with the hopes of a powerful aſſiſtance from Scotland. In Wales, they were 8000 ſtrong, and ſeized upon ſeveral places, but were ſoon defeated, and the places reduced: thoſe who had taken up arms in other parts of the kingdom were alſo diſperſed; but a Scotiſh army, entering England in July, were reinforced by about 5000 Engliſh troops, under Sir Marmaduke Longdale; however, Cromwell marching againſt them, engaged them upon the 17th of Auguſt, near Preſton, in Lancaſhire, where he totally routed them; he then marched into Scot-

Scotland, and, having ſettled the affairs of that kingdom, returned in triumph to England.

In the mean time, ſeveral petitions were preferred to the parliament for a treaty with the King; and it was at length reſolved by both houſes, to enter into a perſonal treaty with his Majeſty, at Newport, in the iſle of Wight; and ten commiſſioners were appointed for this treaty, which began the 18th of September; but on the 18th of November, the army preſented a remonſtrance to the houſe of commons againſt the treaty, and required that the King ſhould be brought to juſtice as the author of all the bloodſhed and evils, with which the kingdom had been afflicted. And now the fate of this unhappy Prince drew on apace. On the 30th of November, he was removed from the Iſle of Wight to Hurſt caſtle in Hampſhire, after which the army marched towards London; and General Fairfax arriving with ſeveral regiments, took poſſeſſion of Weſtminſter, and on the 6th of December ordered his ſoldiers to take poſſeſſion of all the avenues to Weſtminſter-hall, and ſeized no leſs than forty members of the houſe of commons, who were confined in a neighbouring houſe under a ſtrong guard. On the next day, the commons, going in to the houſe, found a ſtrong guard on both ſides the door, by which upwards of ninety more preſbyterian members were denied admittance. The preſbyterians being

being thus excluded, the houſe of commons from this time conſiſted wholly of Independants and their adherents, who were diſpoſed to comply with whatever the army dictated.

On the 23d of December, this remnant of the Houſe of Commons, appointed a committee to draw up a formal accuſation againſt the King, who about the ſame time, was conducted from Hurſt Caſtle to Windſor, where the council of war ordered the uſual ceremonies, ſuch as ſerving him on the knee, to be laid aſide. On the 28th of December, the commons having conſidered the report of their commitee, paſſed an act for erecting a high court of juſtice, impowered to try the King, by the name of Charles Stuart, for high treaſon; and this ordinance being ſent up to the houſe of peers, upon the 2d of January 1648-9, was unanimouſly rejected: the Commons, thereupon, immediately voted, that the members of their houſe, and the other commiſſioners nominated as judges on the King, might execute the commiſſion, although the Lords had rejected the ordinance. His majeſty, being brought from Windſor to St. James's on the 19th, was next day produced before the high court in Weſtminſter-hall, who had choſen ſerjeant Bradſhaw for their preſident. The ſubſtance of the charge againſt him was, that he had endeavoured to ſet up a tyrannical power, and, to that end, had raiſed and maintained a cruel war againſt the Parliament. The King, who ſurveyed this unprecedented tribunal with

an air of dignity and diſdain, and who, to the laſt, bore his fate with aſtoniſhing equanimity and reſolution, made no anſwer to the charge, but refuſed to own the juriſdiction of the court, upon which he was remanded back to St. James's, and the court adjourned.

At the ſecond ſitting of the court, the preſident required the King to anſwer to the charge of high treaſon, which had been brought againſt him. His majeſty again demurred to the legality of the court, upon which he was conducted back to his lodgings. At his third appearance, he continued firm to his purpoſe. At laſt, being brought before the court, on the 27th of the ſame month, he earneſtly deſired, that, as he had ſomething to ſay, which nearly concerned the peace of the kingdom, and the liberty of the ſubject, he might be heard before the lords and commons in the painted chamber; but this propoſal being rejected, he declared he had nothing elſe to ſay. Then the preſident ordered the clerk to read the ſentence, purſuant to which, he was on the 30th beheaded on a ſcaffold erected in the ſtreet, near the windows of the Banqueting-houſe, at White-hall, in the forty-ninth year of his age, and the twenty-fourth of his reign. His corpſe was carried to Windſor, and privately interred in St. George's chapel.

After the death of King Charles, there enſued an interregnum of eleven years and four months, during which the Royal family was totally

totally eclipſed, and the government of the kingdom underwent various forms. The firſt was a democracy or commonwealth: for the King was no ſooner dead, but the remnant of the houſe of commons, called afterwards the Rump, ſcarce amounting to above eighty in number, publiſhed a proclamation forbidding all perſons, on pain of incurring the penalty of high treaſon, to acknowledge or declare Charles Stuart, eldeſt ſon of the late King, as ſovereign of England.

They likewiſe voted the houſe of lords uſeleſs and dangerous. It was therefore aboliſhed, and all the peers reduced to a level with the commons. They afterwards paſſed an act aboliſhing the kingly power, as uſeleſs, burdenſome, and dangerous; and declared, that the ſtate ſhould be governed by the repreſentatives of the people, ſitting in the houſe of commons, under the form of a republic. A new oath, called the engagement, was enjoined, to be true and faithful to the government, eſtabliſhed without King or houſe of peers. A new ſeal was prepared, which was committed to certain perſons, under the title of the keepers of the liberties of England, by the authority of parliament; and all writs and public orders were to run in their name. And finally, a council of ſtate was appointed, conſiſting of thirty-nine perſons, for the adminiſtration of public affairs, under the parliament, whoſe power was to continue for one whole year; and then a new council of ſtate

to be choſen, and thus the government of the commonwealth was eſtabliſhed.

In March, a new high court of juſtice was erected, for the trial of ſeveral noblemen, who were taken priſoners by the parliament, and were now condemned to die, and three of them, the Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Holland, and Lord Capel, were beheaded on a ſcaffold oppoſite to Weſtminſter-hall. But the parliament had not been long in poſſeſſion of the ſupreme power, before they found it neceſſary to turn their thoughts to Ireland, where the Marquis of Ormond was at the head of an army, which had declared for the Prince of Wales. In this exigency the parliament ſent over Oliver Cromwell, whom they had appointed governor of Ireland, with a body of troops; and Cromwell having in about nine months reduced the whole iſland, about the middle of May, in the year 1650, returned in triumph to England.

The Prince of Wales, now in the 18th year of his age, reſided at the Hague, where he received the melancholy tidings of his father's death. He forthwith aſſumed the title of King, and was invited over by the parliament of Scotland; but upon the expreſs condition of his maintaining the preſbyterian diſcipline, and taking the covenant. Charles, rejecting theſe terms, gave the Marquis of Montroſe a commiſſion to raiſe forces in Germany, and make a deſcent upon Scotland. But the Scotiſh parliament

liament had taken ſuch meaſures, that the Marquis was ſoon defeated; and, being taken priſoner, was hanged, drawn, and quartered. Notwithſtanding theſe meaſures, the Scots ſtill continued to treat with the King, who, finding himſelf at length obliged to comply with the conditions firſt propoſed to him, embarked for Scotland, where he arrived in June 1650, but was not permitted to land, before he had taken the covenant.

Upon intelligence of theſe proceedings, Oliver Cromwell, who was now appointed general and commander in chief of all the armies of the commonwealth, Lord Fairfax having reſigned his commiſſion, marched into Scotland, at the head of 20,000 men; and advancing againſt the Scotiſh army, commanded by general Leſley, attacked them near Dunbar on the 3d of September, with ſuch deſperate fury and reſolution that he entirely routed them; and then laying ſiege to Edinburgh Caſtle, reduced it about the end of December.

The King, having been crowned in Scotland, on the 1ſt of January 1650-1, raiſed an army which he commanded in perſon, and marching into England, in Auguſt following, cauſed himſelf to be proclaimed at the head of his army, at all the market towns through which he paſſed. In the mean time, Cromwell, who was ſtill with his army in Scotland, having ſettled matters in that kingdom, marched in all haſte after the King, with whom he came

up upon the 3d of September, at Worceſter, where he charged the royal army ſo vigorouſly, that he obtained a complete victory, and took many thouſand priſoners, among whom was the Earl of Derby, who was afterwards beheaded. The King narrowly eſcaped, and, after wandering about in a peaſant's habit, undergoing vaſt fatigues, and eſcaping numberleſs dangers, for the ſpace of ſeveral weeks, got ſafe over to France. Soon after the battle at Worceſter, general Monk compleated the reduction of Scotland, which was now united with England in one commonwealth.

In the mean time, a war broke out between the two republics of Great Britain and Holland, during the courſe of which, there were ſeveral bloody engagements at ſea; at laſt the Dutch, who were generally worſted, ſued for peace; but before it was concluded, a new revolution happened in Britain; for, on the 20th of April 1653, Cromwell went with a party of ſoldiers to the houſe of Commons, told them they were no longer a parliament; and turning them all out of doors, aſſumed the government of the ſtate.

The army having reſolved that Cromwell ſhould be Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, his highneſs was ſolemnly inſtalled on the 16th of December, and then proclaimed, firſt in and about London, and afterwards throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland, upon which congratulatory

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CROMWEL.

gratulatory addreſſes were preſented to him from all parts of the three kingdoms, and the greateſt foreign ſtates courted his friendſhip and alliance.

On the 5th of April 1654, the Lord Protector concluded a peace with the Dutch, upon which he ordered writs to be iſſued out for chuſing members to ſerve in Parliament. This parliament met on the 3d of September, when the Protector went in great ſtate, and opened it with a ſpeech: but not finding it for his purpoſe, he ſoon afterwards diſſolved it. France and Spain being now at war together, each party endeavoured to gain the Protector, who at length reſolved to aſſiſt France; and having equipped a fleet, ſent it under the command of Admiral Penn, with ſome land forces to attack the Spaniſh ſettlement of St. Domingo, in Hiſpaniola; but having failed in that deſign, the Admiral ſailed for Jamaica, which he took, upon the 17th of May 1655. In September 1656, the Engliſh Admiral Blake ſunk or burnt the whole Spaniſh plate fleet, except two ſhips, which he took with an immenſe treaſure on board; and the year following, the ſame admiral burnt ſix large Spaniſh galleons at the Canary Iſlands.

Now the Lord Protector thought fit to ſummon a new parliament, which met on the 17th of September 1656. The members having been all examined by his highneſs's council, before they were admitted into the houſe, near a hun-

dred members, who refuſed to recogniſe him, were excluded; but theſe publiſhed a ſevere remonſtrance againſt this violence; and now the ſitting members proceeded juſt as Oliver would have them. By the firſt act they paſſed, they renounced Charles Stuart; by another, they decreed the penalty of high treaſon againſt any perſon who ſhould make an attempt upon the life of the Protector: they liberally granted the neceſſary ſupplies for the ſupport of the war; and after they had ſat ſome months, it was carried in the houſe, to offer the Protector the title of King, which was actually done, the 4th of April 1657: but Oliver finding the army averſe to that meaſure, with a great ſhew of humility told the parliament on the 8th of May, that he could not undertake the government with the title of King. However they confirmed to him the title of Protector, with a power to name his ſucceſſor, and to call parliaments, conſiſting of two houſes: and on the 26th of May, the Protector was inaugurated in Weſtminſter-hall, with the like pomp and magnificence, uſual at a coronation.

Cromwell ſent 6000 men to join the French army, purſuant to treaty, by which it was ſtipulated, that Dunkirk and Mardike ſhould be put into the hands of the Engliſh as ſoon as they ſhould be reduced. On June the 25 1658, Dunkirk ſurrendered to the Engliſh and French forces, upon which it was given up to the Lord

Lord Protector, who placed a ſtrong garriſon in it.

King Charles, upon Cromwell entering into a treaty with the King of France, was obliged to leave that kingdom, and retired to Cologne, where he reſided above two years, and from Cologne he repaired to Bruges, in Flanders. In the mean time, an inſurrection was concerted in favour of the King, and the Marquis of Ormond came over to London in order to forward the deſign: but the Protector getting intelligence of the plot, publiſhed a proclamation for apprehending the conſpirators, ſeveral of whom were ſeized; and being tried by a high court of juſtice, were condemned and executed.

On the 20th of January 1657-8, the parliament met, which conſiſted now of two houſes; the new one, anſwering to the houſe of peers, being called the other Houſe, the members of which were conſtituted by the Protector's writs of ſummons: and this new houſe, together with the admiſſion of the members into the lower houſe who had been excluded in the firſt ſeſſions, made ſuch an alteration in this aſſembly, that they ſeemed diſpoſed to undo all that had been done, and to repeal the very act upon which the Protector's whole authority was founded. Cromwell, thinking it was high time to put a ſtop to ſuch proceedings, repaired to the other houſe, and ſending for the Commons, diſſolved the parliament.

The

The Lord Protector being taken ill in Auguſt, died on the 3d of September 1658, in the 60th year of his age, having, as it is ſaid, named his ſon Richard to ſucceed him, juſt before he expired. He had a moſt pompous funeral, and his body was, in appearance, buried in Weſtminſter-abbey: but ſome have ſaid that it was wrapt in lead, and ſunk below bridge, in the Thames; and others have affirmed, that it was buried in Naſeby Field. This extraordinary man was born at Huntingdon, of a good family of Welch extraction; the name being originally Williams; but one of the family marrying the ſiſter of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Eſſex, who lived in the reign of Henry the eighth, and of whom mention has been made in the hiſtory of that reign, a ſon by that marriage took the name of Cromwell, and from him Oliver was deſcended. His father died while he was young, but his mother ſurvived his elevation to the Protectorſhip. She was a virtuous woman of the name of Stuart, and ſaid to be related to the royal family. He had two ſons, Richard and Henry, and four daughters, all women of great ſenſe and virtue.

Immediately after the death of Cromwell, the council aſſembled, and in conſequence of his laſt will, elected his ſon Richard Protector of the Commonwealth. This election was notified to the mayor of London, and next day he was proclaimed in that city and in Weſtminſter.

minſter. Far from meeting with oppoſition, he in a little time received addreſſes from the different counties and corporations in England, congratulating him upon his ſucceſſion, which they promiſed to ſupport with life and fortune. After having been inſtalled and taken the oath, he, in order to ſecure the attachment of General Monk, who had rendered himſelf abſolute in Scotland, ſent thither that officer's brother-in-law, Clarges, with aſſurances of friendſhip and regard, which Monk received with profeſſions of acknowledgment and ſubmiſſion.

Richard, by the advice of his council, called a parliament, which met on the 27th of January 1658-9, and recogniſed the Protector, who was, however, compelled by the army to diſſolve it, upon the 22d of April following. Then the officers of the army taking no further notice of Richard, ſeized the government, and on the 27th of May, choſe Fleetwood, ſon-in-law of the late Protector, for their general, reſtored the members of the long parliament whom Oliver had turned out in 1653, and declared for a commonwealth, without a monarch or houſe of Peers. The rump parliament, being thus reſtored, gave Richard 2000 l. for paying his private debts, and ordered him to quit Whitehall palace, which order he quietly obeyed, and returned to a private ſtation. They alſo recalled his brother, Henry Cromwell, from Ireland, who had been governor of that iſland, and was much

much beloved by the inhabitants for his mild and upright adminiſtration.

The rump parliament had not however ſat long, before ſome differences aroſe between them and the officers of the army, the conſequence of which was, that this parliament was again depoſed by the army, on the 13th of October, five months after it had been reſtored; and, on the 26th of the ſame month a form of government was ſet up, called a committee of ſafety, conſiſting of twenty-three members, who were entruſted with the government in the mean time, and were empowered to conſider further of a form of government, without a King, monarch, or houſe of Peers.

In the mean time, General Monk, whoſe conduct at this juncture was ſo myſterious, that one would be apt to think he had not yet determined in what manner he ſhould act, marched out of Scotland with the beſt of his troops, and gave out, that his deſign was to reſtore the rump parliament. At the ſame time, the fleet, the governor of Portſmouth, and great part of the army, deſerting their officers, declared for the parliament, who accordingly met on the 26th of December, upon which the committee of ſafety, Fleetwood and his aſſociates, were forced to give way; and the troops under General Lambert, who had marched to the north to oppoſe General Monk, upon hearing that the parliament was reſtored, put their General

under

under arreſt, and brought him up to London, where upon his arrival, he was committed priſoner to the tower. Monk, having entered England with his army, on the 2d of January 1659-60, was met at Leiceſter by deputies from London, with an addreſs, praying the reſtoration of the members, who had been excluded in 1648; and at ſeveral other places, as he continued his march, he received addreſſes to the ſame purpoſe, to which he gave no other anſwer than that he would communicate their contents to the parliament.

General Monk, having reached St Albans, ſent a letter to the houſe, deſiring they would order the regiments that were quartered in London to quit that city, and make way for his troops; this direction being complied with, Monk entered London on the 3d of February: going the next day to the parliament, he received the thanks of the houſe; and having promiſed the magiſtrates and citizens of London to reſtore the ſecluded members, they waited on the General at Whitehall, on the 12th of February, all in a body, when he gave them a guard to the parliament houſe, where they took their ſeats, upon which the leaders of the independant and republican party, ſurprized at this ſudden appearance of the ſecluded members among them, withdrew from the houſe. The parliament, thus altered, repealed the oath of abjuration, and that of fidelity to the eſtabliſhed government without King and Houſe of Peers; ſo that the Lords were

reſtored to their right of ſitting in parliament: they appointed Monk general in chief of all the forces in the three kingdoms; and, conſtituting a new council of ſtate, they iſſued out writs for calling a free parliament, and diſſolved themſelves on the 16th of March.

On the 25th of April, the new parliament met in two houſes, according to the antient conſtitution, and in both the intereſt of the Royaliſts predominated. The King's letters to the Lords and Commons were read in both houſes, together with his Majeſty's declaration, granting a free and general pardon to all that ſhould embrace it, within forty days, excepting ſuch perſons only as ſhould be excepted by parliament; and granting liberty of conſcience in matters of religion. Upon finiſhing the reading of the letter, both houſes immediately voted, that, by the fundamental laws of the kingdom, the government ought to be veſted in a King, Lords and Commons. The Commons voted 50,000 l. to the King, 10,000 to the Duke of York, and 5000 to the Duke of Gloceſter. On the 8th of May, the King was proclaimed in London, and the deputies of the parliament and the city ſet out on the 11th for the Hague, where Charles waited their arrival: on the 23d, the King embarked; on the 26th he arrived at Dover, where he was met by General Monk; and on the 29th, which was his birth day, reached Whitehall, through an innumerable multitude of people,

people, who rent the air with ſhouts and acclamations.

The act of indemnity having paſſed both houſes, received the Royal aſſent upon the 29th of Auguſt; and out of it were excepted the late King's judges, and ſome others who had been deeply concerned in his death. Twenty-five of thoſe perſons were dead: but their eſtates were confiſcated. Nineteen had made their eſcape; ſeven were thought worthy of the King's mercy, and twenty-nine were tried in October, and condemned to die, of whom only ten were executed. At this time the bodies of Cromwell, Ireton and Bradſhaw were taken up, and hanged for a whole day at Tyburn, and then buried under the gallows, though it is much doubted, whether the body hung up for that of Cromwell was really his, from the uncertainty of the place of its interment. At the time the King paſſed the act of indemnity, he gave his aſſent to an act for a perpetual anniverſary thankſgiving on the 29th of May, the day of his reſtoration.

In the midſt of that tide of extravagant joy, which overſpread the nation upon the reſtoration, died Henry Duke of Gloceſter, the King's youngeſt brother, of the ſmall pox, at about 20 years of age, on the 13th of September. Elizabeth, the King's ſecond ſiſter, died in Cariſbrook Caſtle during the uſurpation. In October, the Princeſs Dowager of Orange come over to England, to congratulate the

King her brother on his reſtoration; but ſhe alſo died of the ſmall pox, on the 24th of December, leaving only one ſon, William, Prince of Orange, about ten years of age, who was afterwards King of Great Britain. In November, arrived the Queen mother, and the Princeſs Henrietta, her youngeſt daughter, who was married to the Duke of Orleans; and the Duke of York married Ann, eldeſt daughter of Chancellor Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, to whom he had been contracted at Breda.

The hierarchy, which ſuffered the ſame fate with the monarchy, was now re-eſtabliſhed, and in January 1660-61, there was a ſudden inſurrection of the ſect call the Fifth Monarchy men, who expected the perſonal reign of Jeſus Chriſt upon earth. They iſſued out, well armed, about ſixty in number, under their leader Thomas Venner: but being defeated, Venner with ſixteen of his accomplices were taken, and hanged. This accident ſerved as a handle to the court, for ſuppreſſing the preſbyterians, and all other ſects; and meaſures were taken to ſuppreſs the Kirk party in Scotland, where the parliament, being devoted to the court, reſtored epiſcopacy, abrogated the ſolemn league and covenant, and paſſed ſeveral acts againſt the preſbyterians; and, about the ſame time, the Marquis of Argyll, the chief of the Kirk party, was beheaded at Edinburgh.

On

On the 23d of April, the King was crowned with the uſual ſolemnity; and, on the 8th of May, a new parliament met, which continued almoſt eighteen years, and was called the penſionary parliament. A treaty of marriage having been concluded between his Majeſty and Catharine, Infanta of Portugal, ſhe landed at Portſmouth in May, where the King met her, and the marriage was celebrated with the utmoſt magnificence; and the King being in much want of money, notwithſtanding three hundred thouſand pounds which he received by way of portion with the Infanta of Portugal, and the vaſt ſupplies granted him by parliament, ſold Dunkirk to the French miniſtry for five millions of livres.

In the month of April 1664, the Commons having examined the obſtacles to the trade of the nation, voted that the wrongs, affronts and indignities, offered by the Dutch in the Indies, Africa, and elſewhere, to the ſubjects of England, had in a great meaſure obſtructed the trade of the nation, and that his Majeſty would be intreated to procure reparation for theſe wrongs. This was the prelude of a war with Holland; and before it was declared, the Duke of York, who was Lord High Admiral, fell upon the Dutch Bourdeaux fleet, and took 130 ſail of them. A war having been declared in March 1665, the Duke of York ſailed in May, with a fleet of 107 men of war, and 14 fire ſhips, and upon the 3d of June engaged the Dutch fleet, under Admiral

Opdam, consisting of 120 men of war, besides fire ships, and obtained a signal victory over them.

In the mean time several acts passed against the nonconformists for religious worship, which occasioned several plots and conspiracies. In May 1664, an act passed prohibiting persons frequenting conventicles, or meeting houses; in October 1665, an act passed prohibiting all nonconformist teachers to come within five miles of any corporation; and at the same time no less rigour was exercised against the presbyterians in Scotland, which occasioned an insurrection there of about 1500 men, who were however soon dispersed.

In January 1665-6, the French King declared war against England; and the English fleet, under the command of Prince Rupert and General Monk, now Duke of Albemarle, putting to sea, about the end of May 1666, engaged the Dutch fleet, commanded by de Ruyter, and were worsted, having lost twenty-three capital ships. In July there was another engagement, in which the Dutch were beat; after which the English insulted the coast of Holland, burnt 100 merchant ships, and two men of war. In May 1667 conferences were opened, at Breda, between the plenipotentiaries of England, France and Holland, for bringing about a peace, upon which the English fleet was unmanned: but the Dutch continued their [illegible] commanded by

de Ruyter, entered the mouth of the Thames; and Van Ghent, another Dutch Admiral, sailed up the Medway, made himself master of Sheerness, set fire to the magazine, and blew up the fortifications; and then proceeding as far as Chatham, burnt several ships. This occasioned great consternation in the city, and complaints against the King, who was in the utmost perplexity. In short, de Ruyter sailed out of the Thames, kept the coast of England in continual alarms, till he heard that a peace was signed, which happened upon the 21st of July.

In the year 1669, Queen Henrietta Maria, the King's mother, died in France. In May 1670, the Duchess of Orleans came over to England, to visit the King, and died soon after her return to France; and in March 1671, died the Duchess of York, daughter to the Earl of Clarendon, leaving two daughters, Mary and Ann, who both succeeded to the crown. The Duke of York, who had been always deemed a catholic, soon after the death of his Duchess, made a formal abjuration of the protestant religion, and from that time, openly declared himself a papist. In 1671, a league was formed against Holland by France, England, the Elector of Cologne, and the Bishop of Munster. On the 15th of March 1672, the King published a declaration for liberty of conscience, suspending the execution of all penal laws against the nonconformists. On the [illegible] of the same month, his Majesty declared

clared war againſt the States General, and the other allies ſoon after. During this war, the Dutch were greatly diſtreſſed; the French King having made himſelf maſter of a great part of their country. In this exigency, the Prince of Orange, who had been appointed captain-general and admiral, was now raiſed to the dignity of Stadtholder, who, upon the French King's being called off by a Spaniſh war, recovered the places which the Dutch had loſt. There had been ſeveral engagements at ſea, during this war, between the combined fleets of France and England, and the Dutch fleet; but at length a ſeparate peace between England and Holland was concluded, in February 1674.

On the 21ſt of November 1673, Mary, ſiſter to the Duke of Modena, landed in England, and was married to the Duke of York, though the commons addreſſed his Majeſty againſt that match; and on the 4th of November 1677, the Prince of Orange was married to the Princeſs Mary, eldeſt daughter to the Duke of York.

In the year 1678, Dr. Tongue, and Titus Oates, drew up a narrative of a popiſh plot to murder the King, and deſtroy the proteſtants, and made oath of the truth of their narrative, before Sir Edmondbury Godfrey, a juſtice of the peace, in the pariſh of St. Martin in the fields. Soon after this narrative was ſworn to, juſtice Godfrey was found murdered in a field between London and Hampſtead; upon

upon which the commons reſolved, that there was a helliſh plot of the papiſts to aſſaſſinate the King, and ſubvert the eſtabliſhed religion and government. On the 27th of November, Edward Coleman, Eſq; ſecretary to the Ducheſs of York, was convicted of high treaſon, in carrying on a corrreſpondence with Le Chaiſe the French King's confeſſor, in order to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed religion. Soon after an act paſſed, for diſabling papiſts to ſit in either houſe of parliament.

On the 24th of January 1678-9, the long parliament was diſſolved, after it had continued eighteen years, and a new parliament called upon the 6th of March following. In the beginning of this ſeſſion, the commons reſolved, that the Duke of York, who, about this time had by the King's advice retired to Bruſſels, being a papiſt, the hopes of his ſucceeding to the crown had given the greateſt countenance and encouragement to the preſent conſpiracies of the papiſts againſt the King and proteſtant religion. This reſolution of the houſe of commons was ſent to the Lords for their concurrence, upon which the King came to the houſe, and offered to put any reſtriction to his ſucceſſor, and to conſent to any laws they ſhould propoſe for the ſecurity of the proteſtant religion, but altering the ſucceſſion.

The commons of England, notwithſtanding the King's conceſſions, upon the 15th of May, ordered

ordered a bill to be brought in to diſable the Duke of York from inheriting the crown of England. This bill, commonly called the bill of excluſion, was read the ſecond time, and it was reſolved by a vaſt majority, that it ſhould be committed: but the King coming to the houſe, upon the 27th of the ſame month, after paſſing the habeas corpus act, prorogued the parliament, and ſoon after diſſolved it. About this time, Dr. Sharp archbiſhop of St. Andrews, in Scotland, was barbarouſly murdered by ſome furious zealots. Soon after which, there was an inſurrection of the Kirk party, in Scotland, which was ſuppreſſed by the Duke of Monmouth, natural ſon to the King. About the ſame time, the Duke of York returned to England, upon which the Duke of Monmouth, who was now becoming very popular, was ſent over to Holland.

END OF VOL. III.